

RUGBY UNION
MAKE OR BREAK
TIME FOR THE
ENGLISH CLUB

Redgrave
to ship
oars after
Olympic
Games

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Too late
or time

THE TIMES



30p

No. 65,552

FRIDAY APRIL 12 1996



Retired early
All-rounder Richard
Cake could have
been the next
CB Fry. Instead
he's joining ICI
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Valerie Grove
Why Nazi hunter
Simon Wiesenthal
will never let
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FREE CONCERT
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Too old to die
Hellraising rocker
Paul Westerberg
explains why he
loves the quiet life
PAGE 31

First attack on Beirut for 14 years

Israeli raid may delay peace talks

By Ross Dunn in Jerusalem and Our Foreign Staff

AT LEAST five people were killed yesterday when Israeli helicopter gunships fired rockets into the southern suburbs of Beirut in a revenge attack against Hezbollah guerrillas. It was Israel's first raid on the Lebanese capital for 14 years.

The attacks appear likely to delay the next stage of the Middle East peace process: agreement between Syria and Israel. Though Lebanon is not directly involved in the process, the country has a heavy Syrian military presence. The attacks may well give Damascus the excuse to delay further this next, most difficult, part of the negotiations.

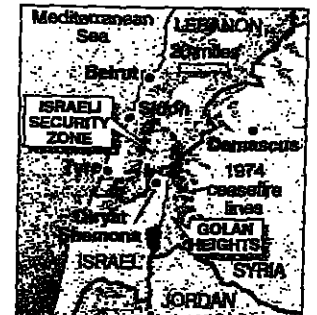
The Clinton Administration last night urged all parties to show restraint but refused to condemn Israel's action. "Fundamentally the problem is created by [Hezbollah's] rocket attacks into northern Israel," Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, said. Those had created a "very dangerous situation" and "the parties ought to recognise that the way to resolve this problem is for those rocket attacks to be stopped".

General Amiram Levine, the top military commander in northern Israel, said that the military operations could last several days.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, ordered the assault after Hezbollah fired rockets into northern Israel on Tuesday, wounding 36 people, and killed a soldier in the occupied border zone on Wednesday.

Three Israeli Apache helicopter gunships attacked the Shia Muslim suburbs where the Iranian-backed fundamentalist Hezbollah has offices and many of its leaders live, the Lebanese Army said. A 60-year-old man was killed and at least two other civilians were wounded. After a full of several hours, an Israeli Cobra helicopter also fired rockets at an abandoned house in south Lebanon.

The Israelis struck targets in the southern border region, the eastern Bekaa Valley and the fringes of the suburbs of Beirut itself. Two civilians died and four others were wounded when their car was hit by a missile near Sidon. Another civilian was killed



and one was wounded when three missiles hit the village of Shur. Another car was hit in a helicopter raid in the Tyre region, wounding the driver.

A Lebanese army soldier was also killed and three were injured in a separate helicopter raid on an anti-aircraft post on the outskirts of Tyre. Mohsen Dallul, the Defence Minister, said Israeli artillery shelling wounded two more civilians.

Ehud Barak, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and a former military chief of staff, said no area of Lebanon was immune from such attacks so long as Israeli citizens had to take shelter from Hezbollah fighters operating in the south of the country.

Hezbollah leaders threatened to hit back at Israel "and burn the earth" under its feet.

Faris Bouez, Lebanon's Foreign Minister, said he was considering launching a complaint with the UN Security Council after the Israeli attacks. "If Israel means peace then it is destroying it today and it's contributing to more tension in the region," he said.

Syria confirmed its comments to a radio broadcast which said that Israel has misjudged the situation and jeopardised its chances of peace with Damascus. At this stage Israel is counting on Syria's official reaction as being little more than rhetoric.



Seven-year-old pilot Jessica Dubroff and her father, Lloyd, who were killed yesterday

7-year-old girl pilot killed in record bid to cross America

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A SEVEN-year-old girl who was attempting to fly across America was killed yesterday when her single-engine Cessna crashed.

Jessica Dubroff died instantly when the plane hit the ground soon after it had taken off in bad weather in Cheyenne, Wyoming, at the start of the second leg of the trip. The Cessna came down in a residential area but no houses were hit. It appeared that the pilot may have steered the aircraft away from homes, so that it crashed in a road.

Jessica's father, Lloyd, a business consultant, also died in one of the Cessna's two rear passenger seats. The other victim was Joe Reid, a flight instructor, who was at Jessica's side in order to meet aviation authority requirements. Solo flight is not permitted by children under the age of 16.

A witness, Ron Nimmo, said that the Cessna was circling but suddenly went into a dive. The victims were taken to hospital but were declared dead on arrival.

The Cessna had taken off in rain, hail and wind. It was not known who was at the controls when the plane crashed. Jessica flew in to Cheyenne on Wednesday evening, executing a fair landing after a wobbly approach. She was greeted by a crowd of schoolchildren who held placards saying "Good Luck, Jessica". On the day before her flight began she said she had slept for only two hours, "because I was so excited".

The record-breaking attempt began on Wednesday afternoon at Half Moon Bay

airfield near San Francisco, California. Jessica had devised her own flight path, charting a 6,500-mile route over the Rockies, the vast Midwestern and the Great Lakes. She intended to land in Falmouth, Massachusetts, where her family once lived.

The Cessna's controls were altered to suit the girl's short limbs. Before starting her journey, Jessica announced: "I'm going to fly until I die." She first rode in a small plane on her sixth birthday when she was allowed to take the controls briefly, and from that day she was hooked. Despite having an instructor at her side, she intended to do all the flying. In the event of Mr Reid having to take the controls in an emergency, Jessica would

There are few sights crueler than loving parents working on their own image of reflected glory. Norris McWhirter on the deadly urge to break records... Page 14

have had to repeat that leg of the journey in order to qualify as a transcontinental pilot.

Child aviation has become increasingly common in America with parents anxious to see their young assume the airs of adulthood, and at the same time perform to the peak of their abilities. The record for youngest airborne navigation across north America is held by nine-year-old Tony Allengren, who achieved the feat in 1983.

The Guinness Book of Records recently stopped publishing child aviation records, for fear of an accident.

Labour the centre party, Blair tells US

By Peter Riddell in New York

LABOUR has become the party of the centre, speaking for the mainstream majority, Tony Blair said yesterday as he sought to show that his party had transformed itself and was ready for office.

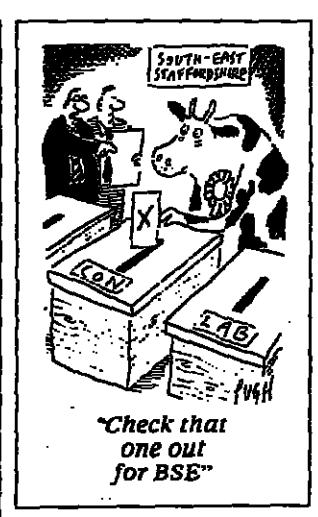
His speech, to 600 businessmen at the British-American Chamber of Commerce in New York, marked a further big step in his attempt to distance new Labour from its

past. In remarks that will increase the doubts of the Labour Left about his aims, Mr Blair said that Labour had stripped "outdated ideology" from its values and freed the party from "the excess influence of pressure and interest groups". Nowhere in his speech did the word socialism appear.

Instead, he presented new Labour as a "party of the centre as well as the centre-left". He said: "A radical centre is needed to answer the competitive challenges for the economy while enhancing social stability and coherence."

Mr Blair argued that the old solutions of Left and Right no longer applied and he believed that the centre could be fertile ground for radical policies.

"The extremes whether of Left or Right simply will not meet. Continued on page 2, col 5



German airport fire kills 15

At least 15 people were reported killed and more than 100 injured when a fire broke out in a flower shop at Düsseldorf international airport, fire fighters and police said.

Many of the casualties were overcome by thick smoke. The terminal was evacuated and the airport closed to all air traffic, police said. Page 11

Separation for Marina Ogilvy

By Alan Hamilton

MARINA MOWATT, daughter of Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy and a cousin of the Queen, has separated from her husband after six years of marriage. It was announced yesterday.

Mrs Mowatt, aged 29 and 30th in line of succession to the throne, married her photographer husband Paul, 32, in 1990 when she was six months pregnant, and amid reports of opposition from her parents. The couple now have two children, aged six and three.

A statement issued on behalf of the couple by solicitors Max Bittel Greene yesterday blamed the separation on long-standing marital difficulties, and emphasised that no one else was involved. "Both Marina and Paul are very sad that this situation has been reached, and both are now intent that the interests of their



Marina Ogilvy: very sad

children must be paramount. This is a private matter and, for the sake of the children, Marina and Paul wish to avoid unnecessary publicity which might upset the children. For this reason, no further statements will be issued."

A spokesman for Mrs Mowatt's parents said last night that Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus were sad to learn of what had happened. "They will of course do everything they can to help their daughter and her young family."

Egypt seizes Cunard liner that hit reef

By Jonathan Prynne, Transport Correspondent

THE Egyptian Government has impounded the Royal Viking Sun luxury cruise liner in the Red Sea port of Sharm el-Sheikh as a bargaining counter in its dispute with Cunard over damage to a protected coral reef.

The public prosecution office in Cairo confirmed yesterday that the 37,845 tonne ship will not be allowed to leave Egyptian waters until the company has met its demands for \$23 million (£16 million) compensation.

The ship was crippled last Thursday when she struck a reef near the island of Tiran while negotiating the narrow Gulf of Aqaba, and is now anchored off Sharm el-Sheikh.

Divers from the Egyptian environmental protection agency have reported severe damage to the reef, which forms part of the protected Ras Mohamed marine national park. Cunard is contesting the

cost of the damage, which greatly exceeds previous fines against owners of boats that have damaged the coral. The heaviest such fine before the Royal Viking Sun accident was about £14,000.

Bill Spears, a Cunard spokesman, said that lawyers representing the company's insurers would meet Egyptian Government officials at the weekend to sort out the dispute. A senior Cunard source said he believed the company's insurers would be able to negotiate the Egyptian authorities' figure down.

The company is flying its own diver and a coral expert out to assess the damage.

The 500 passengers, including 54 Britons, who were on board the Royal Viking Sun when she hit the reef were flown home at the weekend and have been offered a 14-day cruise on other ships as compensation.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Forty pages of men's fashion, in the **Magazine**

Paul Heiney's new column for cooks, in **Weekend**

Seven days of TV and radio, in **Vision**

PLUS **Weekend Money**, Car 96 and 1015 for young Times readers



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Labour move to lure businessmen into classrooms 'dangerously naive'

Teachers sceptical over Dad's Army school invasion

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR moves to attract middle-aged businessmen into teaching were criticised by the profession yesterday for failing to tackle an impending recruitment crisis.

Heads teachers and union leaders doubted that older people would return to the classroom in sufficient numbers to dent the requirement for 30,000 new teachers a year by the end of the century. The "Dad's Army" scheme was given a cool reception at its launch at the annual conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary and architect of the scheme, appeared ready to backtrack after his speech to the conference in Glasgow. "The great attraction of the idea is that if it does not work, you have lost

nothing. If it does not work, so be it." He said mid-career transfers from business and industry would go hand-in-hand with incentives for graduates to enter teaching as well as extra pay for proven "super teachers". He told the conference: "It is a nice idea that those who have made their mint somewhere else will want then to give their time to teaching. I am assured by some of them they do."

But Professor John Howson, of Oxford Brookes University, who has carried out a series of studies on teacher employment, said the proposals were "dangerously naive". Little more than half of the 800 people aged 45 or more who trained to be teachers in 1993 ended up in the profession. "Recruitment for secondary schools hit the buffers two years ago," Professor Howson

said. "What the profession actually needs is more people in their twenties, but if new graduates find teaching unattractive, what kind of people are we going to get transferring in their forties?"

Mr Blunkett said yesterday that sabbaticals of up to a year for long-serving teachers would be another incentive to enter teaching under a Labour government. The break could be used by teachers after 15 years' service, to spend time in industry or research. Last night it was claimed this could cost at least £300 million a year for supply cover if all 18,000 teachers with 15 years' service opted for a sabbatical.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NASUWT, welcomed the idea of sabbaticals but did not think the Dad's Army scheme would work. "Those people will be aware that youngsters of today are very different from what they were 30 years ago. They are less respectful of authority and to be a teacher these days you have to have a lot of vigour. It would be a very stiff challenge for them."

John Dunford, president of the Secondary Heads' Association, said: "We want the best young graduates coming into the profession. Bringing in 55-year-olds from industry will not solve the huge teacher shortage coming in the next two or three years."

Mr Dunford said 50,000 new teachers would be needed every year by the turn of the century. The cost of training these people would be far better invested attracting and training graduates to spend a lifetime in teaching, he said.

James Paice, a junior Education and Employment Minister, said Mr Blunkett's scheme for a sabbatical for long-serving teachers would cost the country £5 billion if every eligible teacher took a year off. A Labour spokesman said, however, that sabbaticals would be gradually phased in with industry contributing some of the cost.



Nigel de Gruchy, left, and David Blunkett at the union's conference in Glasgow

Child abusers beat ban to work as supply staff

By DAVID CHARTER

CHILD abusers banned from teaching are being allowed back into schools by unscrupulous teacher supply agencies, a classroom union said yesterday.

Tight new regulations are required to stop agency teachers on a government blacklist from sidestepping screening checks, delegates at the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers annual conference, which is taking place in Glasgow, were told.

A survey by the union found that one in four head teachers did not know whether security checks had been made on supply teachers sent to them by agencies. In one instance, a teacher who had been sacked and placed on the Department for Education's blacklist, known as List 99, was sent back to a primary school by an agency. Local authorities are

legally obliged to check the list and criminal records of all teachers but corner-cutting agencies can avoid the checks if they hire teachers on a self-employed basis.

Martin Johnson, a supply teacher in Lewisham, south-east London, said: "One of our members found someone teaching in a primary school he knew had been forced to resign from another school and put on List 99. The Government had made the decision he was not fit to teach and yet the man was back in the classroom. The majority of people on List 99 have a question mark about abuse of children."

He said that in another case, Manchester education authority had to write to schools warning that an agency representative was himself on List 99.

The union called for regulations to require the checks which it claimed were routine-

ly ignored by some agencies. Screening was said to be often overlooked for the hundreds of supply teachers from Australia and New Zealand on agency books.

Delegates also said the growing use of agency teachers would drive down standards.

Mr Johnson said: "Pupils in one school had 13 science teachers on a most, most of them from abroad, with no knowledge of the national curriculum."

Brian Garvey, a member of the union's national executive from Yorkshire, said: "This Government complains about 15,000 unsuitable teachers in schools on the one hand, and yet fully endorses this casualisation of the teaching profession."

"This drives down teacher quality by employing anyone from off the streets anywhere in the world," Mr Garvey said.

Judge says jailing of patient was absurd

An Old Bailey judge said yesterday it was "absurd" for a psychiatrist to refuse to allow a second medical opinion on a suicidal mental patient, which resulted in him being sent to prison instead of hospital.

Sydney McBride, 49, who has a history of severe depression, had tried to burn himself to death and had admitted arson. He was sentenced to four years. Judge Laughton, QC, told him: "I very much regret that I cannot order a disposal which would more closely address your need for treatment but because of the attitude of a doctor I am unable to do so." Dr David Somekh surprised the probation service and defence lawyers by the move.

Bridgewater trial doubts

A second juror in the Carl Bridgewater trial said yesterday that she believed the four men convicted of the killing were innocent. Lucinda Graham is to support the campaign to have the case sent back to the Court of Appeal. Miss Graham, the youngest member of the jury in 1979, said she had doubts from the start. Michael Hickey, his cousin Vincent Hickey and James Robinson were convicted largely on a confession by Patrick Molloy.

Leeds killing denied

A young man arrested for the murder last weekend of a pensioner who was attacked in his car as he stopped to ask directions, denied in court yesterday that he was the killer. Clive Jones, 25, was arrested on Tuesday in connection with the death last Saturday of Steven Popovic, 74, who was prominent in the Serb community in the Chapeltown district of Leeds. Mr Jones, who lives in Gipton, West Yorkshire, was remanded in custody for a week.

Nursing staff arrested

A female nurse and a male nursing auxiliary have been arrested in connection with "serious allegations" after an internal inquiry at Bolton General Hospital. John Pettigrew, director of nursing, said: "The allegations relate to the care of three male patients on one of the psychiatric wards." The arrests come 18 months after a separate inquiry into the abuse of psychiatric patients resulted in seven nurses being suspended and three later sacked.

Canterbury tails off

Canterbury Cathedral fell in popularity in the year it introduced admission charges. The number of visitors fell to 1.9 million, down from 2.25 million the year before. A charge of £2 for adults and £1 for children, the unemployed and pensioners was introduced last June. Officials said the hot summer, parking problems and French strikes affected the number, which equalled that of visitors to St Paul's in London.

Suspect in Philippines

The former lodger of a missing Essex businessman and his wife has been arrested in the Philippines. Geoffrey Paston was arrested at a nightclub he runs in the city of Tacloban by immigration officials, accompanied by two officers from Essex Police. Mr Paston is wanted for questioning about the disappearance of David Sims, 51, from Southend, and China Rose, 31, his Filipina wife, who have not been seen since the early months of 1993.

City wins £15m grant

The Arts Council of England awarded a National Lottery grant of £15 million towards the upgrading of the Victoria Concert Hall and the Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent. The improvements are part of the council's plan to create a "cultural quarter" in the city, which will include a touring venue for ballet, drama, opera and music theatre. Seventy-four grants totalling £28.16 million were distributed yesterday.

First taste of summer

The first English strawberries of the summer of 1996 are on their way to the shops this weekend, earlier than ever before. Despite the late spring, the latest improvements in growing techniques have urged the crop forward by at least ten days. Vernon Emery, of Warsash, Hampshire, gave his plants 15 minutes of artificial light each hour from 11pm until 7am from mid-January, triggering the growth that produces earlier and larger fruit.

Mother rescues children

A mother plucked her two children and their friend to safety after driving onto a rail crossing and two trains approached from opposite directions. Kim Turner, 32, from Leonfield, East Yorkshire, had edged onto Scarborough crossing near Beverley although warning lights were flashing. She grabbed the children and leapt from the car, which was badly damaged as it was hit by one of the Sprinter trains.

Oasis cut concert

Extra police were called in yesterday after the rock band Oasis walked out abruptly during a concert in Canada, sparking fears of a riot by thousands of angry fans. The concert had just begun at the Coliseum in Vancouver when the band suddenly stopped playing and left the stage, apparently because someone had thrown a shoe onstage. Sergeant Bob Chapman of the city police said: "There were no reports of injuries."

Labour 'at centre'

Continued from page 1

the real challenges. A modern party must be in the centre, speaking for the mainstream majority."

In the past Mr Blair has presented new Labour as being in the centre-left, so his reference to the centre is a further step in the repositioning of the party, in line with his claims that Labour is the party of One Nation.

Mr Blair argued that the role of "a modern centre and centre-left government is to equip people and business for change, to enable and empower, not to direct and control. A government of the radical centre, offering real and dynamic change but doing it from a centre-ground position, taking people with us, recognising that unless we combine change with equity, change will not come."

Mr Blair backed his claim both by referring to changes in the structure of the Labour Party itself and in its policies, mentioning in particular its intention to keep public spending under tight control while making a top priority of lowering tax at the bottom end of the scale.

He argued that while the values and priorities of the

main parties would continue to differ, they would draw from the same "pot of policy prescriptions". Tax reform, he said, could be a message of both Left and Right, as could welfare reform.

In his speech, Mr Blair emphasised that it was absurd to imagine that, for Britain, "there is a choice between the relationship with Europe and that with America. On the contrary, the real value to the US of the British role in Europe lies in the influence we can and will exert to help keep Europe firmly linked to the US in defence, outward-looking, open to trade and investment, and open also to the inclusion of the new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe."

He spoke of his strong belief in free-trade policies, calling for further action to deal with barriers to trade and investment across the Atlantic.

The Labour leader reinforced his claims to a new approach by saying that new Labour accepted many of the changes brought in in the 1980s under Conservative governments which were needed to improve competitiveness and encourage enterprise.

Irritated Tories, page 9

Social worker backtracks on drugs

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE social work director who caused a storm of protest by describing Ecstasy as safer than aspirin yesterday declared drug misuse "illegal and unsafe".

Mary Hartnoll's original comments were described as "unwise" by senior officials at Glasgow City Council yesterday. The council has called an emergency meeting.

Miss Hartnoll, 55, caused outrage among drug rehabilitation workers with an internal memo to the chief executive of the council describing Ecstasy as "relatively safe". She also said in the memo that the risk of dying from a normal dose of aspirin was "very much greater" than that of dying from Ecstasy.

She had been responding to a headline approach on drugs by the council's licensing board, and her opinions appeared to contradict the work

being done by the board. Yesterday, however, Miss Hartnoll said: "I would never condone the taking of Ecstasy or any illegal drug."

The council moved to limit the damage to its image by declaring its commitment to combat the drugs threat in the city. Drug abuse claims the lives of about 100 young people in Glasgow every year.

Robert Gould, leader of the council, said: "Ecstasy is not a relatively safe drug." He said, however, that he would not be calling for Miss Hartnoll's resignation and that she retained the confidence of the council.

Mr Gould said he had sympathy for views of the father of Leah Betts, the teenager who died after taking Ecstasy. Paul Betts said that Miss Hartnoll's remarks were "totally irresponsible".

Mr Gould said yesterday:



Hartnoll: started her £76,000 post recently

"If I were Leah Betts's father or mother I would probably be talking the same way but if you look at the detail of what is being said, Mary Hartnoll is probably not far off the mark."

The deputy leader of the Council, Gordon MacDiarmid, said Miss Hartnoll's statement was "very irresponsible in relation to public

perception but it was not an irresponsible statement to make in an internal memo" given its context and its audience.

Miss Hartnoll, who took up her £76,776 a year council post recently, said: "I am surprised and disappointed that one sentence in an internal memo has been so widely misinterpreted and taken out of context."

"The social work department, under my leadership, has played a full and active part in the Greater Glasgow Drugs Action Team, whose first priority is to turn the tide of public opinion against illicit drug-taking and to make it socially unacceptable, an aim I fully endorse."

She added later: "My view is that there is no such thing as a safe drug, but the risk of death from Ecstasy is perhaps not that high, although there are a lot of other health risks involved."

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Ogilvys' daughter leaves husband Hello! casts evil spell on another 'happy' marriage

By Alan Hamilton

THE curse of *Hello!* has struck again. Paul and Marina Mowatt are the latest in a procession of high-profile couples to have publicly pledged their troth and their boundless happiness in the pages of the mass-circulation weekly, only to find their marriage subsequently in tatters. The Duke and Duchess of York tried it once and it did them no good at all.

Marina Ogilvy, daughter of Sir Angus Ogilvy and Princess Alexandra, was 24 and 24th in line to the throne when, in 1989, she found herself pregnant by her boyfriend Paul Mowatt, a young photographer with no shred of royal connection.

They are the latest in a long line of royal couples to face a failed marriage. They have witnessed the separation of the Princess Royal and Captain Mark Phillips, the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of York.

The Times understands that yesterday's statement by solicitors was issued to pre-empt a Sunday newspaper, which had intended to publish details of the couple's marriage breakdown this weekend.

Shortly after her pregnancy



Paul Mowatt: said to have been paid £100,000

was confirmed, Marina sold her story to the now-defunct *Today* newspaper, claiming that her parents were so horrified by the prospect of the first illegitimate royal birth this century that they had forced her into the choice of abortion or shotgun marriage.

Marina, in the event, chose the ceremony was far removed from that of her parents in Westminster Abbey. Paul and

Marina were married at St Andrew's Church, in Ham, southwest London, before a congregation of 30, among whom there were no royal family members other than the bride's parents. The bride wore black.

Their daughter was born and named Zenouska, a name her parents confessed they had made up during a game of Scrabble. The couple seemed happy, and Marina told newspapers how much better life was outside the Royal Family. She even made sympathetic noises towards the Prince and Princess of Wales when their formal separation was announced in 1992, saying how well she understood the pressures of life in the royal goldfish bowl.

But all was not well on Marina's home front. Even *Hello!*, which prefers its domestic horizons to be entirely unclouded, reported in its November 1992 interview with the couple that a serious rift remained between them and Marina's parents. In two years, Zenouska had seen her grandparents for a total of 15 minutes, despite living in a semi in Teddington, only ten minutes' drive from Princess Alexandra's home at Thatched House Lodge in Richmond



Marina Mowatt leaving her home in Teddington, southwest London, yesterday with her son Christian

Park. When a second child, Christian, was born in 1993, there appeared to be something of a family reconciliation. Paul Mowatt, who had been unwelcome in the Ogilvy family home since the marriage, was received into the fold. Sir Angus Ogilvy and Princess Alexandra attended a joint christening of their two grandchildren in the Chapel Royal of St James's Palace,

lent for the occasion by the Queen.

But even that event was not without its repercussions. Paul, who had already incurred royal displeasure for selling photographs of his wife wearing thigh-length boots and a tinsel crown and brandishing a gun while corgis snapped at her feet, dug himself deeper into royal opprobrium for selling the story

and pictures of the christening to *Hello!* for a reputed £100,000.

The couple, who have recently been living together in a cottage in Yorkshire, have been obliged throughout their short married life to make a living as best they can. Three years ago, Marina further distanced herself from the Royal Family by agreeing to write a regular column for the

Sunday Express. It was not a success, and the House of Windsor does not like its members, even those in the lower twenties of the succession table, to muddy their hands with rough trade.

Marina's belief that the secret of happiness lay in escape under the Windsor wire to the fresh and airy world outside has, sadly, not lived up to expectations.

Two held on killing ordered by a fax

By Kate Alderson

POLICE hunting the killers of an accountant shot four years ago on the orders of an American millionaire have arrested two men.

David Wilson, 47, was murdered by two hooded men at his home in Withnell, Lancashire, in March 1992. Mr Wilson, who was married with two daughters, had become involved in a multi-million-dollar cigarette deal with Michael Austin, a wealthy New York fraudster.

Austin, 40, ordered the execution of Mr Wilson by fax from New York after the accountant began to threaten the success of his empire. He was extradited from the United States and convicted of murder at Carlisle Crown Court last year. He was sentenced to life imprisonment but has appealed.

On Wednesday night two men, both English and in their thirties, were arrested at their homes by a team of Lancashire detectives helped by the Metropolitan Police and the Kent Constabulary. The men, one from Northfleet, Kent, and the other from south London, were taken to Lancashire for questioning.

Superintendent Bob Denmark, who led the international search for the killers, said: "These arrests were the logical conclusion of four years of investigations. I anticipate charges connected with the killing of David Wilson will be brought."

Tory MP's lost sleep costs royal hall £1,600

By a Staff Reporter

A COMPLAINT by the Conservative MP Nicholas Winterbottom that loud music from a band next door to his London flat stopped him sleeping cost the Royal Horticultural Halls a £1,000 fine yesterday for noise pollution.

The thumping beat from an awards function for *The Grocer* magazine at the halls in Westminster was "terribly loud", Mr Winterbottom, MP for Macclesfield, told council officers, Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court heard.

Through its managing director, René Dee, the Royal Horticultural Halls Ltd admitted failing to comply with a notice under the 1974 Control of Pollution Act to abate a noise nuisance. The company was also ordered to pay £626 costs.

Alex Cranbrook, for Westminster council, said the notice had been served after complaints from residents of flats next to the halls, where a concert was taking place. Later, Mr Winterbottom, 58, who has a flat in the same block, complained and officers who had gone to his address were able to hear the music before midnight even with the windows closed.

After hearing the halls were 62 years old and not properly sound-proofed, Ros Keating, a magistrate, commented: "In those years, we didn't have the sort of music we have now."

Mr Dee told the court that the company had now stopped taking bookings for music and dancing functions.



Adams: "Residents might watch for novelty value"

Residents tune in to real-life crime

By Paul Wilkinson

VIEWERS on a crime-ridden estate in South Yorkshire who are bored with the usual stuff on television can switch to real-life sex, drugs and violence on their own doorsteps.

A £25,000 closed-circuit system being installed in council tower blocks in Doncaster is linked directly to the TV sets of residents. Council officials hope the project will turn the occupants of 450 flats into their own security guards and cut the rising level of trouble at the 30-year-old St James Street estate. Similar schemes in Camden, north London, and Hartlepool, Teesside, achieved dramatic cuts in vandalism and thefts.

Terry Adams, tenants' association chairman on the estate, said: "We have been plagued with problems for years and this means people will be able to see what is happening and tell the police. Car thefts and break-ins in the parking areas have been a problem but one of the main sources of trouble

is when gangs get inside the blocks.

"Because the lobbies are secluded there have been gangs of boys and girls, drinking, glue-sniffing, taking drugs and having sex. With the cameras we will be able to see what happens and telephone for the police without fear of intimidation. Residents might even tune in for the novelty value."

Doncaster council, which shares the installation and running costs with South Yorkshire Police, said the cameras would not see inside individual homes. "The system will not be linked either to local police or our own central control room but directly into spare channels on the residents' TVs through communal aerials."

Bev Marshall, the council housing chairman, said: "This system will enhance the security arrangements and hopefully reduce the levels of nuisance and crime, allowing people to use the communal areas without fear."

Hardman Vinnie sees red at Dutch order of the boot

By Richard Duce

VINNIE JONES, English football's most notorious exponent of the late tackle, is no stranger to the red card but none has come swifter than his embarrassing exit yesterday from an international conference on fair play in sport.

Jones would probably admit his inclusion as a speaker at the Amsterdam conference had smacked of the bizarre. But he was not happy to be snubbed by officials who insisted his name was not on the guest list.

Exit Jones to his hotel room and an early bath while he waited for an explanation from the organisers of the conference, sponsored by the Dutch Government. The organisers insisted Jones's exclusion had nothing to do with his hardman reputation. He had instead, they claimed, been invited only to take part last night in a television recording with his fellow



Jones: excluded from conference on fair play

professional Eric Cantona and the Formula One drivers Damon Hill and Michael Schumacher, to be shown across Europe today.

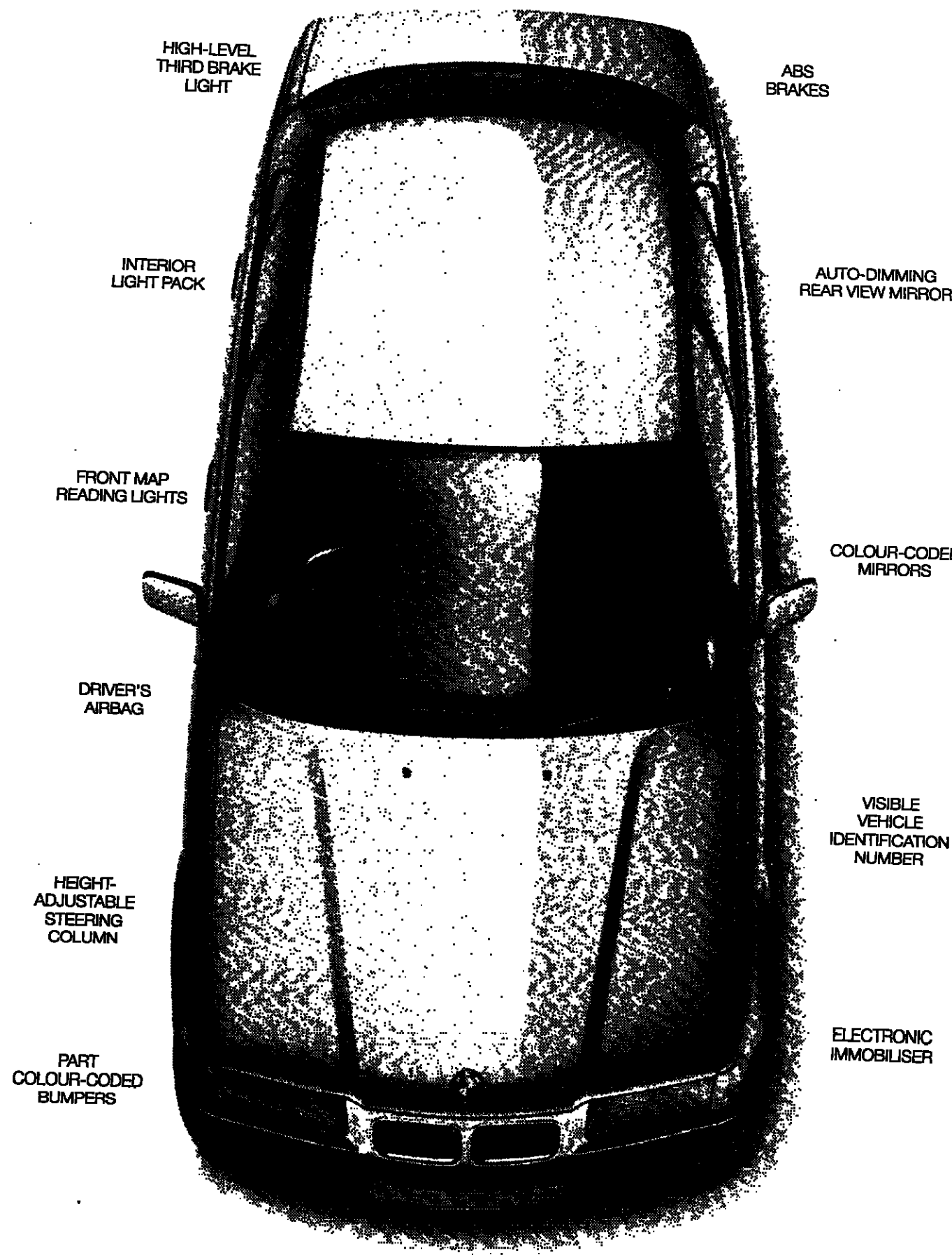
Steve Davies, Jones's agent, was unconvinced and flourished an invitation from Erika Terpstra, the Dutch Sports Minister and former

Olympic swimmer. It stated: "It is my great pleasure and honour to invite you to the round-table conference. Your presence will underline the importance of the object of the meeting."

Jones said his exclusion was a "ridiculous cock-up. If you want to know about coal, ask the people who are digging it out."

The Wimbledon player insists he has mellowed despite being sent off recently for fouling the Chelsea footballer Ruud Gullit, whom he called a "speaking pig". "When I started playing I was only 20. Now I am older and more educated. We all learn by our mistakes."

Jones has been sent off 12 times in his career, more than any other English league footballer, and attracted fines totalling more than £26,000. Gullit has been declared European ambassador for sport, fair play and tolerance — a title that Jones said was well-deserved.



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Costs grow over plan to curb BSE

Cattle slaughter may be doubled to 30,000 a week

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to kill up to 30,000 cattle a week are to be announced by the Government next week in the first stage of a rescue package for the beef industry, it emerged yesterday. That is double the number initially thought necessary under last week's Luxembourg agreement with the European Union to keep all cattle older than 30 months out of the food chain.

Investigation by the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Farmers' Union has revealed that the number of steers and heifers, prime beef cattle, which are older than 30 months is much higher than was thought. This means the Government will not be able to limit the destruction to the 15,000 normally slaughtered every week at the end of their productive life.

Thousands of prime cattle just over 30 months old will also have to be destroyed because they cannot now be used for food. Younger animals are extremely unlikely to be infected with BSE, the "mad cow" disease.

Richard Macdonald, the NFU's director-general-designate, said: "It is impossible to

determine exactly how many cattle fall into what we are calling this 30-plus category, but it could be around 250,000 a year — far more than we thought."

These animals include cattle reared for export which are slaughtered at a later age to satisfy foreign demand for heavier carcasses. Some of the best beef also comes from slow-maturing breeds fed almost entirely on grass and often killed as late as 36 months. Meat from these animals is now banned if they are older than 30 months.

Farmers say the Ministry of Agriculture has made problems worse by using tooth development as the test of cattle age. Any animal showing more than one pair of incisor teeth is deemed to be older than 30 months, but farmers say a second set of incisors often appears in heifers younger than that. Proving an animal's real age can be difficult because until very recently there was no systematic recording of the birth dates of heifers. The Ministry says it is trying to come up with a solution.

The NFU has told the

ministry that it calculates there is now a backlog of up to 100,000 old cows and a further 100,000 younger animals more than 30 months old awaiting slaughter on farms. Clearing this backlog could mean destroying as many as 30,000 animals a week for up to six months.

Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, could announce the cull next Tuesday, according to Whitehall sources, and the first cattle could be slaughtered before the end of the month.

Details of the plan are still being finalised. These include levels of compensation and the logistics — there is no shortage of slaughter capacity but the nine licensed livestock incinerators cannot handle more than 3,000 whole carcasses a week. One idea under discussion is that the heads, backbone and offal would be incinerated. The rest of the carcasses would be boiled down by rendering plants which specialise in processing animal waste. The residue could then be incinerated or buried in special landfill sites. Mr Macdonald said: "The logistics of the operation are a



An animal rights activist at the gate of the Aalten slaughterhouse, where the Netherlands calf cull began

huge problem. There will be a tremendous catch-up job. Some sort of queuing or rationing system may have to be introduced to allow for a phased destruction of the animals."

The NFU said it was pressing for extra compensation for farmers who would lose prime beef cattle. Under the Luxembourg deal, farmers would get

an average of about £480 per animal, a figure based on the market rate for an old and barren cow. Prime beef animals can be worth more than £1,000 each.

Extra compensation would create difficulties for the Treasury. The EU agreed last week to pay 70 per cent of compensation at a rate of £480 an animal, but it is understood

that any compensation above that rate would have to come entirely out of the Government's pocket.

In addition to the destruction of animals over 30 months old, the Government is also committed to produce proposals by the end of this month for a more selective cull of cattle and/or herds identified as being at the most risk of

developing BSE. There is no indication yet how many animals this might involve.

The NFU is considering a legal challenge to the EU's worldwide ban on £600 million, on the ground that it is disproportionate to the scientific evidence, but will make no legal move for three weeks to give the EU more time to review the ban.

Protests greet cull of calves in Holland

ANIMAL rights activists shouted "murderers" yesterday at the beginning of the mass destruction of 64,000 British calves in the Netherlands.

Escorted by police vehicles, four trucks transported the first load to the Kropveld-Schipstal slaughterhouse in Aalten, where up to 2,000 a day will be killed for up to six weeks. Animal rights and vegetarian groups laid wreaths against the walls.

The drastic mass slaughter was announced last month by the Dutch Agriculture Ministry, after British scientists said there was a possible link between mad cow disease and deaths from the human equivalent, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Syndrome.

In France, a government investigation reported six cases of fraud over the origin of beef imported into France in the last two weeks. In two cases out of 2,000 checked, British meat imported before a French ban was on sale labelled as French meat. Four others involved Dutch and German meat which was sold as French, said junior finance minister Yves Galland, in a statement on the results of his ministry's investigation. Legal proceedings had been launched in all six cases, he said.

France was the first country to suspend imports of British beef, on March 21.

Psychological Society

Degree grading 'biased and open to abuse'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

UNIVERSITY examiners are assessing students in a way that is "unreliable, inconsistent, biased and open to frequent abuse", the president of the British Psychological Society said yesterday.

Professor Stephen Newstead said only a radical overhaul would prevent the degree system falling into disrepute. One essay, given to 14 different examiners, received marks ranging from a First to a borderline Lower Second or Third-class degree.

Professor Newstead, of Plymouth University, said examiners were influenced by their personal like or dislike of students whose work they were marking. But his experiment had shown that, even without knowing the candidate, the marks awarded for the same piece of work could differ by 70 per cent.

National examinations were needed as part of all university degrees to halt the erosion of faith in institutions that produce too many good results, Professor Newstead said. He feared Britain could follow the United States, where many qualifications are regarded with scepticism by employers and academics.

"Students don't always get the degree they deserve," he said at the society's annual conference in Brighton. "The system is undermined if degrees don't mean the same thing in different institutions. The reputation of British higher education is potentially undermined." Professor Newstead doubted that a First

Class degree meant the same now as it did 10 or 20 years ago. "In the past 15 years there has been an inexorable increase in the proportion of Firsts from 6 per cent to 10 per cent. It could be that students are getting better, or that teaching methods have improved to such an extent that students are performing much better than their counterparts in the past. But even if this is the case, it does not explain why the proportion of good degrees has gone up so much at a time when the participation rate has increased so dramatically."

About 30 per cent of 18-year-olds enter higher education, compared with only 5 per cent some 20 years ago. "It is difficult to believe that the proportion of these modern students who merit a good degree is so much higher than the proportion of their more highly selected predecessors."

There are wide variations in the number of good degrees awarded in different disciplines, with philosophy, history, sociology and English students getting better awards than accountancy, mathematics, education and law. Professor Newstead said there was also evidence of sex bias in marking, with women tending to get fewer Firsts and Thirds than men, particularly at Oxford and Cambridge.

Professor Newstead called for academics to be banned from assessing projects which they have supervised, as already happens with PhD theses.

Computers 'strike fear into young'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

YOUNG computer-users, often presumed by their parents to have been born to wander cyberspace, are more intimidated by new technology than older generations, researchers have found.

According to a study by Strathclyde University, those in their thirties are eager to learn computer skills and feel confident about their ability.

Despite being brought up on computers, many young people can feel fearful at the thought of using them. Some even develop a condition known in America as "computer phobia", experiencing dizziness and nausea when surrounded by them and a wish to smash the machine.

Nicholas Bozionelos, a psychologist, told the British Psychological Society conference that he had compared a group brought up in the 1970s — 165 trainees in management, aged from 30 to 43 — with a group brought

up in the computer-dominated 1980s — 47 undergraduates aged from 18 to 23. Younger people were 95 per cent more likely to be apprehensive about computers. Women were twice as likely to worry about computers as men. A larger experiment involving 440 people shows similar initial findings.

"The findings are astonishing. If they are substantiated, it suggests that the younger generation may avoid computers, may underperform and may even sabotage new computers in the workplace," Mr Bozionelos said.

One theory is that younger people are overwhelmed by the amount of computer technology available and fear they will have to learn all of it to get through life. The young also associated computers with mathematics, which they found difficult at school.

People in their thirties and forties know they only had to learn a few computer applications to help them at work.

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Union accuses Barclays of putting workers at risk by not revealing threat from blackmailer

Police comb bank records for clue to parcel bomber

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
AND STEWART TENDLER

LISTS of disgruntled customers and former staff were being checked by police last night in the search for the Barclays bomber.

The bank confirmed it had handed over lists of aggrieved clients, including failed businessmen who blame the collapse of their firms on the bank. Detectives believe the bomber could be a businessman with a military or engineering background, or a bank employee who was sacked or made redundant.

The police and bank have placed newspaper advertisements appealing for the bomber to get in contact. This month he wrote to the *Daily Mail* threatening more attacks and claimed he was part of a group of disaffected bank victims.

In the past 16 months the bomber, who calls himself Mardi Gra, has made threats and sent or planted about 25 home-made devices aimed at Barclays and Barclaycard. Three have gone off, and one clerk suffered minor injuries.

A spokesman for the bank said: "We are co-operating with police and helping them in any way we can. I am sure people will understand it is important this man is caught. We have talked to the police about a number of possible lines of inquiry."

The bank was accused by unions yesterday of putting

14 MONTHS OF ATTACKS

December 5, 1994: Bank clerk injured by letter bomb at Hampstead High Street. Five more bombs sent same day to other west London branches. Addressed with a label saying *Welcome to the Mardi Gra Experience*.

December 6: Bomber wrote to Barclaycard headquarters in Northampton with first demand for money. Bank was told to communicate through the personal columns of *The Daily Telegraph* using the codename Mardi Gra. He always responded with untraceable letters.

May 1995: Another black-mail demand as devices were sent to people or companies working for Barclaycard and Barclays. June 19: Barclaycard security official received device made with shotgun cartridge. July: Some devices posted

to home addresses and others put through the letterboxes of companies in an arc south of London from Kent to Surrey including a greengrocer and a merchant builder. Another appeal put out for the bomber to get in contact.

August: Another written demand from the bomber. September: Devices left in telephone boxes near Barclays branches in west London. One device left in a case outside a branch at Hayes was thrown into the road and exploded as car drove over it.

January: More devices left outside branches including one in Ealing, west London. Others planted in south London. In the past two months, another advertisement has been placed by the bank seeking contact with bomber, who threatened more attacks.

staff at risk. Rob MacGregor, assistant secretary of Bifu, condemned senior management for failing to warn staff that the bank had become a target.

He questioned the bank's decision to follow police guidelines and issue general instructions about safety procedures rather than specific

warnings. He said the bank should have taken steps to make staff more aware of the possible risk. "There is being subtle and there is being non-existent, and that is what they have been," Mr MacGregor said.

He said Barclays had been "hiding behind the police. We have an employer that knows

it has enemies. Banks are highly unpopular and they are an easy target."

Andrew Buxton, the bank's chairman, said staff had received "regular warnings about letter bombs and raids and keeping vigilant generally. You have to appreciate that this is against the background of a business that has a raid of some sort once a week, and a raid that might involve firearms perhaps once a fortnight. So our staff generally are extremely vigilant, and we do send out regular warnings."

"The warnings we have sent out have covered everything, and we have wanted to work with the police and keep the particular circumstances of this campaign silent. Looking back at the warnings we have given, I think actually they have been quite explicit."

Mike Pitcher, director of operations at Barclays, said the bank had not specifically mentioned the bomber because it had been "guided by the police. They are the experts. The police wanted to keep the number of people who knew about this to an absolute minimum because they thought it would give the perpetrator time to trip himself up."

Mr Pitcher said the bank had sent out at least 12 warnings to staff since the bombing campaign started in December 1994. These had provided information about the nature of devices and



Staff at Barclays branches were not told of the blackmailer but were given warnings on security

were in addition to other "very stringent security procedures".

"What we have done is remind staff of the need for continued vigilance," he said that staff also received regular training about security procedures.

Senior officers admitted yes-

terday that they had no strong leads on the identity of the blackmailer. The name Mardi Gra was printed on the cover of the video boxes containing the first bombs sent in 1994. Many of the bombs have been made with shotgun cartridges which explode when the box containing them is opened.

Cunning criminal driven by a powerful grudge

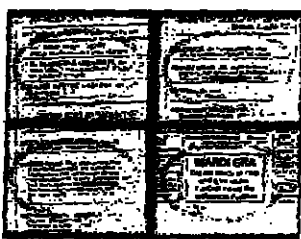
BY STEWART TENDLER

THE Barclays bomber is a cunning criminal with an engineering background who works alone and is driven by a powerful grudge against the bank or anyone connected with it, psychological profilers have told police.

Anti-terrorist detectives have consulted psychologists and bomb experts to build up a picture of the attacker which shows that he may have been a customer or worked for the bank and Barclaycard at one stage. He could still do so.

Some of the bombs were sent to the homes of bank officials, suggesting that he has had access to the bank's computer files. His obsession with Barclays is so strong that he has even attacked firms that supply the bank or have links with Barclaycard.

A Yard source said yesterday: "He is a loner with a clear specific grudge who possibly lives in London. He is a combination of the erratic and



the careful planner. He will go for long periods doing nothing which shows he is prepared to wait."

Experts think the bomber designed the bombs himself, which suggests a military or engineering background. He also built wooden boxes to hold some bombs. One investigator said yesterday: "The things are well engineered. There is skill in how they have been put together."

Yard officers have consulted FBI experts involved in the hunt for the Unabomber. A man was arrested by American police last week in connection with a 17-year campaign

against the spread of new technology that has led to three deaths.

Ted Kaczynski, arrested for the Unabomber attacks, led a solitary existence in the Montana hills. The Unabomber travelled across the United States striking at will. The Barclays bomber also struck whenever he chose. Police believe that he sometimes acted on the spur of the moment as he passed a building. "It is almost as if he drives around London and drops them off," said a police source.

The bomber's demands have been vague and he has never come up with detailed proposals on how money should be paid, yet he is familiar with forensic science techniques and has taken care not to leave clues. His contacts with police through newspaper personal columns have been designed to avoid entrapment. Police have tried to tempt him into making contact by telephone but he has resisted the bait.

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Skoda outshines German giants

British left standing by Japanese in car satisfaction survey

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

CARS produced by traditional British manufacturers such as Ford and Vauxhall are rated among the worst in an authoritative survey on customer satisfaction launched yesterday. Rover fares slightly better in the J.D. Power league table, in which Skoda appears ahead of BMW and Mercedes.

The survey, which is regarded as the motorist's bible in America, checked the experiences of more than 14,000 owners of 1-registered cars in Britain. The result is a comprehensive survey of what motorists think of their cars and dealers. Car makers are sceptical, however, pointing out that the research took place three years ago.

Skoda, which has been transformed by Volkswagen, its new owner, will no doubt eschew this point of view after scoring highest of the Europeans in a league table dominated by Japanese manufacturers.

Honda is rated as the best overall manufacturer, followed by Toyota, Mazda, Subaru, Daihatsu and Mitsubishi. The survey is a near disaster for British manufacturers, while refusing to disclose the full list of 32 makes, confirmed that the big volume makers are "in the bottom third".

Of 72 models featured in the list, the highest placed British-made cars are Japanese - the Toyota Carina made in Derbyshire, the Honda Accord

from Wiltshire and the Nissan Micra and Primera models from Wearside.

The Rover 600 is the best-placed "traditional" British car, in 30th position, followed by the Jaguar XJ6 in 38th. Britain's best-selling car, the Ford Escort, is third from the bottom. Of the ten worst cars in the league table, six are Vauxhalls and two Fords.

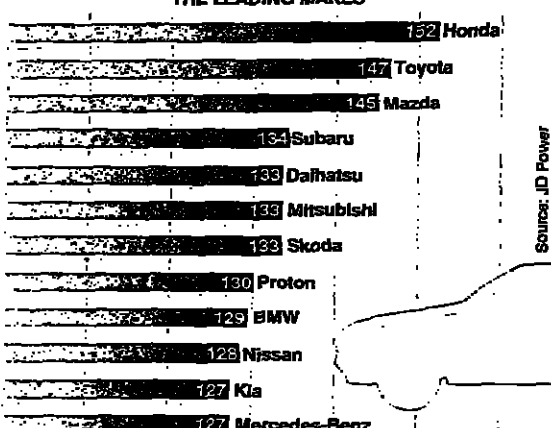
J.D. Power UK, the company founder and president, said: "It is up to the manufacturers to take this information away with them and to use it to make major gains in their product quality."

"The Japanese led the way in the US but the domestic manufacturers changed their ways. When we started in 1985, US manufacturers would face 170 to 180 faults for every 100 vehicles they made. Now that figure is down to 50. Pressure from consumers helped them change their ways."

The survey shows 63 per cent of British owners are "very satisfied" with their cars compared with 77 per cent of owners in a similar survey in America. Dealers fared much worse, with only 41 per cent of motorists being satisfied with the service they receive in the showroom and workshop. However, Dave Sargent, Power's director of European operations, said: "Poor product quality gives dealers a much harder task."

Roger King, public affairs director for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "This survey is judging cars from three years ago, since when the industry has made enormous strides. The results do not explain why the Ford Mondeo, for example, is on the preferred list in almost every other survey but scores badly in this one."

The answer, according to Power researchers, might be because the volume manufacturers sell to tougher customers, the fleet buyers, while Japanese manufacturers tend to sell more to private buyers.

SATISFACTION FROM YOUR CAR
THE LEADING MAKES

Source: J.D. Power

98 Toyota Corolla	84 Hyundai Lantra	77 VW Passat
97 Honda Civic	84 Renault Laguna	76 Suzuki Vitara
92 Toyota Camry	84 Proton Persona	76 VW Polo
91 Mazda 323	83 Isuzu Trooper	76 Fiat Tipo
91 Mitsubishi Colt	83 Fiat Punto	76 Peugeot 106
91 Mazda 626	83 Rover 600	76 Ford Fiesta
90 Honda Accord	83 Mitsubishi Shogun	75 SEAT Ibiza
89 Subaru Legacy	83 Jeep Cherokee	75 Citroen AX
89 Subaru Impreza	82 Volvo 900	75 Fiat Cinquecento
88 Nissan Micra	82 Saab 900	74 Vauxhall Cavalier
88 Daihatsu Fourtrack	81 Audi 80	74 Rover 600
88 Skoda Favorit	81 Renault 19	73 Land Rover Discovery
88 BMW 5-series	81 Volvo 400	72 Ford Granada
88 Mitsubishi Galant	81 Jaguar XJ6	72 Renault Espace
88 Nissan Primera	80 Rover 200	72 Fiat Linea
88 Mercedes 200/300	80 Peugeot 306	72 Vauxhall Calibra
88 Saab 900	79 VW Golf	71 Vauxhall Corsa
88 Proton M1	79 Rover Metro	71 Vauxhall Astra
88 Nissan Sunny	79 Citroen Xantia	70 Ford Mondeo
88 Kia Pride	79 Rover 400	69 Vauxhall Carlton
88 Seat Toledo	79 Peugeot 405	69 Vauxhall Omega
88 Mercedes C-class	78 Renault Clio	67 Ford Escort
88 BMW 3-series	78 Peugeot 205	67 Vauxhall Frontera
88 Volvo 850	78 Citroen ZX	64 Lada Samara



Nirlev Sohal, daughter of VC winner Parkash Singh, visiting the exhibition yesterday with her husband Kanwal

Commonwealth heroes honoured

By JOHN YOUNG

NOTHING could stop Parkash Singh coming to the rescue of comrades under fire. Now his hard-won Victoria Cross is one of the most treasured items in an exhibition honouring millions of Commonwealth volunteers who came to Britain's aid in wartime.

On January 6, 1943, Sergeant Singh was serving with the 5/8 Punjab Regiment, as part of the 14th Indian Division in the Arakan region of Burma, when the Japanese opened fire on two disabled Bren-gun carriers. He drove his own carrier out and successfully rescued the crews.

Two weeks later, on January 19, he carried out an almost identical rescue of two other crews. He connected a chain to a third carrier, containing two wounded men,

A world record was set yesterday when decorations won by Major General Orde Wingate, right, leader of the Chindits in Burma, were sold for £56,500. The medals and memorabilia included his triple Distinguished Service Order, Colt revolver, Royal Artillery captain's tunic and a battered pith helmet. The collection was bought by an anonymous British collector at Sotheby's in Billingshurst, West Sussex, setting a record for non-Victoria Cross gallantry medals.



and towed it to safety under heavy anti-tank and machine-gun fire. The Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, presented Sergeant Singh's Victoria Cross six months later. After a

career in the Army he reached the rank of major and died in retirement, but his daughters, Nirlev and Jyoti, and granddaughter Malika have been among visitors to the exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, the former chief of staff, said at the opening that without the immense achievements of the Indian forces the war in Asia might never have been won.

In later life, when Mr Singh returned to the Punjab, he was known to everyone as VC. His daughters recalled, Nirlev lives in north-west London with her husband, Kanwal Sohal, a solicitor, and Malika, their eight-year-old daughter.

The exhibition honours Commonwealth exploits in two world wars and in Korea. On a wall are the words of David Lloyd George after the First World War: "The causes of the war were unknown in India; its theatre in Europe remote. Yet India stood by its allegiance heart and soul from the first call to arms."

Luftwaffe joins Dad's Army in heritage battle

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE Luftwaffe is to come to the aid of the Dad's Army that defended Britain against its onslaught, in an attempt to preserve Scotland's wartime heritage before it is too late.

The Defence of Scotland Project was launched in Edinburgh yesterday and Home Guard veterans have been asked to help the attempt to record the hundreds of pillboxes, gun sites and coastal

batteries which were vital to the national defence 50 years ago. Of vital assistance to historians are the hundreds of photographs of British defences taken by the Luftwaffe, now in German museums.

Many of the defences lie neglected and overgrown. Some were dismantled and others are under threat from erosion. The Army has no record of them and the Ministry of Defence no longer necessarily owns the land.

Doreen Grove, Historic Scotland's in-

spector of ancient monuments, said: "The most urgent record required is the recollections of the people who built and manned the defences. These remains are a vital but neglected source of historical information."

Stephen Wood, a military historian based at Edinburgh Castle, said 120 photographs taken from German aircraft during the war had so far been used and showed the defences with great clarity. German photographs

Basics put 5.6% more on typical food bill

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE cost of feeding a typical family has risen by 5.6 per cent in the past 12 months, according to research by the consultants Reward. Steve Flather, of Reward, says that the rise can be attributed to increases in the price of staple foods, such as potatoes, apples and eggs.

Announced promotions include:

Asda: fresh beef sirloin steak £7.25 a kg, broccoli 99p a lb, strawberries 69p for 227g.

Budgens: fresh Cumberland pork sausages 99p for 454g, Filippo Berio extra-virgin olive oil £1.99 for 250ml, English Idla Red apples 65p a kg.

Co-op: fresh Scottish salmon steaks £1.99 for 22g, cheeseboard selection tray £3.99 for 520g, pure orange juice £1.79 for 3 ltr.

Harrods: smoked salmon delice £2.95, Serrano ham £3.55 for 100g, kippers £3.10 a kg, mixed Dutch peppers £1.95 for four.

Iceland: breaded nuggets £3.79 for 50, part-boned chicken breasts £3.99 for 1.5kg.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

button sprouts 99p for 907g, strawberry and vanilla New York cheesecake £1.99.

Marks & Spencer: New Zealand lamb rib chops £7.49 a kg, Bakewell tarts 85p for two, croissants 99p for eight.

Morrisons: mini Melton Mowbray pork pies £1.49 for six, oysters 29p each, light coleslaw 39p for 227g.

Safeway: topside, silverside or top round with added basting fat £4.99 a kg, British crumbed ham 59p a lb, New Zealand extra mature cheddar £2.19 a lb, grapefruit 29p each.

Sainsbury's: premium pork sausages £1.09 for 454g, mature blue Stilton £1.67 a lb, oranges £1.19 for eight, Somerfield: fresh boneless leg of pork £2.99 a kg, tiger prawns £1.69 for 113g, cherry tomatoes 99p a lb.

Tesco: pork spare rib chops £2.79 a kg, braising steak £2.29 a kg, medium free-range eggs £1.41 for 12, frozen raspberry pavlova £1.79.

Waitrose: Aberdeen Angus sirloin steak £5.99 a lb, Royal Gala apples 49p a lb, new potatoes £1.29 for 2.5kg.

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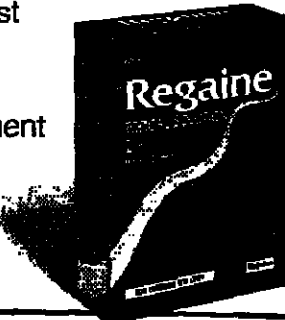
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- Results continued as long as treatment did.

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Twins help search for cause of disorder

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BY NIGEL HAWKES

Identical twins Joan Robbens, left, and Joyce Shutes, whose condition was examined by the researchers

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

hear the Lord Advocate's statement, said afterwards that he very much welcomed it.

Mrs Johnston's husband Peter welcomed the court ruling on immunity from prosecution. He said yesterday: "The staff at Law Hospital have done a lot for Janet. I don't want them to get into trouble if they stop feeding her."

"I just want my wife to die in peace and with dignity. Thank God Janet will soon be at rest."

Dr Thomas Stuttaford


can become so extreme that the spine becomes fused. The back pain is worst in the mornings. Treatment with anti-inflammatory drugs is intended to stop the patient adopting a permanent stoop.

Patients may develop inflammation within the eye, inflammation of the covering of the heart, aortic valvular heart disease and lung complications. Stiffening of the joints of the chest does not by itself usually cause breathlessness but, as breathing is restricted, the lungs often become infected, requiring treatment with antibiotics.

Patients who are HLA-B27 positive have another grave

Mr Hurst is unmarried and is reported in his interview to have referred to girlfriends. Reiter's is a forceful argument for monogamy. As a colleague used to tell patients who were found to be HLA-B27 positive: "Some men are born to prefer monogamy — others have it thrust upon them. You belong to the latter group."

and conditions of this offer are available on request.



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Meteorite carried helium stowaways

Crater find suggests building blocks of life came from space

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

CARBON found in a huge crater in Canada made by a meteorite nearly two billion years ago strengthens the idea that the chemicals of life arrived on Earth from outer space. American scientists have found carbon molecules in the crater debris near Sudbury, Ontario, and have shown that they survived the fiery impact of an object the size of Mount Everest hitting the Earth.

The team from the University of Rochester, New York State, and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, California, report in *Science* magazine that the carbon was in the form of "buckyballs", also known as fullerenes — football-shaped molecules made up of 60 carbon atoms — and that trapped within them were atoms of helium. The helium

stowaways were a mixture of isotopes — different forms of the element — in a ratio that is not found on Earth, but is found in meteorites. This is strong evidence that the helium and the carbon in which it was encased originated outside the solar system.

The team measured the ratio of two helium isotopes, helium-3 and helium-4, and found that it was ten times higher than the ratio found in helium from the Earth's mantle. "The ratio of the helium inside the buckyballs is what we typically find in meteorites," says Professor Robert Poreda of the University of Rochester. "It's much higher than the ratio found anywhere on Earth."

"Our results show clearly that this helium and these buckyballs are of extraterrestrial origin. If a meteorite or a

comet can deliver intact carbon molecules to the Earth's surface, then it's likely that other organic compounds can also survive an impact."

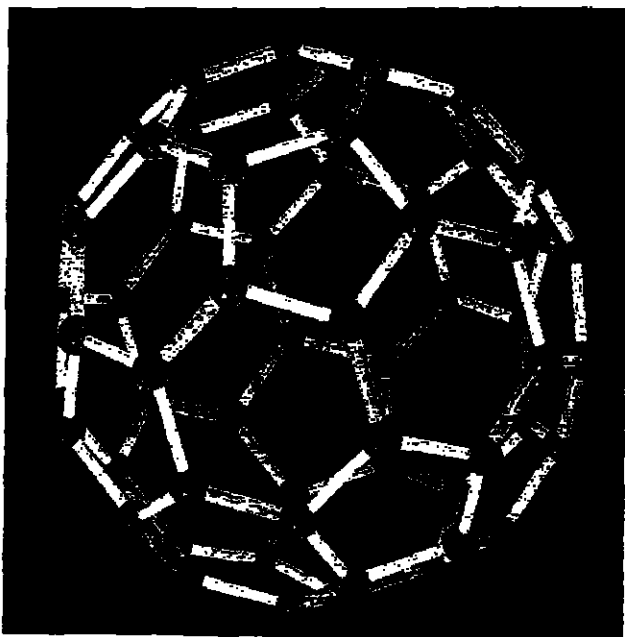
The Scripps scientists were surprised by the findings. "It just didn't make sense to either one of us that fullerenes could survive an impact like this," Dr LuAnn Becker says. The crater covers nearly 700 square miles and the impact would have released a thousand times more energy than detonating every nuclear weapon on Earth.

If carbon did survive the impact, it fills a gap in the evolution of life on Earth. Two billion years ago there were no higher-level plants and no concentrated sources of carbon on Earth, yet all modern life forms are based on the chemistry of carbon. Where did it all come from? The new

evidence backs the idea that it came from outer space, after being created in cool stars known as red giants.

"I have to admit that I was a very strong opponent of this view," says Dr Jeffrey Bada of Scripps, one of the authors. "I didn't think it would be a viable way to get organics on the Earth because I believed, as most people did, that these events were just too energetic for the stuff to survive. Now, all of a sudden, I have a different view."

The buckyballs were found in the Sudbury crater two



"Buckyballs" were found to contain helium atoms which had originated outside our solar system.

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The buckyballs were found in the Sudbury crater two

years ago, but at the time Dr Bada believed them to have been formed in the impact. He has changed his mind because of studies of the helium inside them, using a mass spectrometer.

Buckyballs are exotic molecules of carbon, first identified in 1985 by a team that included Professor Harold Kroto of Sussex University.

They were named Buckminsterfullerene because their structure resembles that of the geodesic domes designed by the late American engineer Buckminster Fuller.

Gene discovery provides clue to causes of ageing

By Nigel Hawkes

THE first human gene known to affect the ageing process has been identified by American scientists.

The gene has been isolated in people suffering from a rare genetic disease called Werner's syndrome. Normal as children, sufferers begin to age rapidly in adolescence. They stop growing, their hair goes grey and they suffer several of the degenerative diseases of age, including blocked arteries, diabetes and bone thinning.

The discovery of the gene is an important finding because the changes are so like those of ordinary ageing. A team from Seattle Veterans Affairs Health Care System and Darwin Molecular Corporation, a biotechnology company in Seattle, reports the results in *Science*.

The gene identified is one that carries the genetic code for an enzyme called a helicase, whose job it is to unwind the two strands of the DNA double helix by

breaking the hydrogen bonds that hold them together. This means that the helicase is involved in many operations, including DNA replication and repair.

Failure of the DNA in cells to copy itself with perfect accuracy, and the consequent slow accumulation of errors, is one of the possible causes of ageing. "We are very excited about the discovery, and that the function of the gene product is apparently so clear," Dr David Galas, executive vice-president of Darwin, said.

"There is still a great deal to be learnt about the precise processes involved in the cell, but our work has now opened a new window into the biology of age-related diseases," he said.

The scientific team, led by Dr Gerard Schellenberg, concludes that the finding is evidence that "at least some components of normal ageing and disease susceptibility in later life may be related to aberrations in DNA metabolism".



Eva Herzogova

Bra team gives flask a big lift

The Thermos flask is being given a racy new image by the man who thought up the Wonderbra adverts, featuring Eva Herzogova. The £500,000 advertising campaign by Trevor Beattie and his agency TBWA, to be launched this week, includes slogans such as "Leave it, Grandad."

Set piece

One of the first British-made television sets, a 1938 HMV model 904, fetched £2,700 at Christie's in London. It has a walnut cabinet, built-in wireless and 4in by 4in round screen — but no longer works with modern power systems or broadcasts.

Tranquil travel

Mobile telephones and personal stereos have been banned from certain carriages on Great Western trains between Paddington and South Wales. Passengers have also been asked to speak quietly. A spokesman said: "People seem to like the peace and quiet."

Research prize

Dr Paul Nurse, director of laboratory research at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London, has won the Dr H.P. Heinen Prize for biochemistry and biophysics, awarded by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Fire kills boy

A four-year-old boy died after fire broke out in his bedroom. Jason Ditch was rescued from the burning room at his home in Colchester, Essex, by firefighters, but died at the scene. His mother, Caroline, and brothers Jake, 6, and Jordan, 2, escaped unhurt.

Mane road ahead

The first pelican crossing for horses, costing £20,000 and with traffic controls at saddle height, is being built on the A505 bypass in Nottinghamshire. The new relief road, which crosses a bridge path, also includes six underground tunnels for toads.

Overwork can be bad for your health

OVERWORK is a killer, researchers said yesterday, and the Government should support limits to the working week (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Dr Susan Michie and Dr Ann Cockcroft, of the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, said evidence showed that higher workloads increase disease and death rates.

Writing in this week's *British Medical Journal*, they quote a seven-year study of 2,465 Danish bus drivers, which showed that those who died or were admitted to hospital with heart attacks were those who drove the busiest routes. Job strain — defined as a combination of high demand and low control — increased mortality.

Why hard workers should die younger remains unknown, they admit. One possibility is that stress might increase hormone levels, or cause sleep disturbances. Alternatively, high job demand may lead to more accidents by causing increased clumsiness.

They called for strategies to reduce the working week: "This should include making employers responsible for preventing work overload and stress, as well as providing help for individuals with work stress-related illness."

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Irritated Tories try to rain on Blair's American parade

BY PHILIP WEBSTER IN LONDON AND PETER RIDDELL IN NEW YORK

The Labour leader said that this "should not be seen as a desire to punish those at the top". Many people with "modest income", such as some policemen, schoolteachers and middle-managers, were currently paying the higher rate of tax, he said.

The man on almost everyone's guest list

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

Whether Mr Blair's visit generates extensive coverage in the US media remains to be seen. He was interviewed on ABC's *Good Morning America* yesterday, and will be seen at this morning on the Fox network's breakfast show. This afternoon he is to appear on CNN but neither CBS nor NBC, the two other big networks, requested interviews.

"Tories believe in low taxes. If we put taxes up it's because we've no choice. The gut instinct of the Labour Party is to spend more and put taxes up. He said last year that you can only tell what a party's like when it's in power. Labour is in power in local government right across the country. Council tax has gone up dramatically."

Wowing Wall St. page 21



Bankers and brokers pay homage to a Prime Minister in waiting

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Typical was a round-table discussion with 28 bankers, brokers and fund-managers. The initial atmosphere was said to be tense, as if Mr Blair

But what Mr Blair has only really begun recently to do is to show how Labour's policies would differ from the Tories. This is less to do with detailed policies than with broad strategic direction.

In his speech yesterday Mr Blair took that forward. It was not just his claim that Labour is a party of the Centre as well as the Centre-Left. It was more his attempt to argue that the Thatcherite agenda of opening up markets and encouraging enterprise should not be reversed but, that gov-

The key theme, stressed more clearly yesterday than before, is that Mr Blair sees an active role for government in handling such change in an era of economic insecurity. This involves policies for government to work in partnership with business and measures to improve education and skills and to reform the welfare state.

This can be seen as common ground between the main parties. After all, while David Blunkett and Gillian Shepherd argue about selection, they have similar approaches to improving standards in schools. But there are key differences over the extent of regulation and the balance between the government and free markets. Mr Blair has staked his ground: now he will have to justify his view that governments really can make a difference.

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Daily Express 31.1.96

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It's a simple solution to an everyday problem. But how does a blind person know where to find cat food in the supermarket? Or which cereals are the cheapest? The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) offers advice on tactile information, lighting, layout and staff training, to help supermarkets meet the needs of their visually impaired

customers. RNIB also encourages the stores to provide staff to read out prices and give directions. RNIB's work is especially important if you consider many visually impaired people live alone. For more details about RNIB call 0345 023040.



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Ruling party emerges with election lead

North Korean threats backfire in Seoul poll

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN SEOUL

WITH more than three fifths of the vote counted, the ruling New Korea Party (NKP) held a clear lead in South Korea's parliamentary elections which dealt a humiliating blow to Kim Dae Jung, the opposition leader.

A record low 63.9 per cent of the electorate took part in yesterday's poll, which was contested against a backdrop of increasing tension with North Korea. Many people chose to get away for the national holiday instead of voting, although there were street battles in Seoul between anti-government students and the police.

Last night, the NKP led in 123 electoral districts, followed by Kim Dae Jung's National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) in 66. The conservative United Liberal Democrats (ULD) led in 39 districts, the Democratic Party in nine districts and independents in 16. There were 294 seats at stake.

including 46 decided on a proportional basis.

Chang Dasaro, an NKP spokesman, said that President Kim Young Sam would have no difficulty maintaining his mandate for the remainder of his term. "We will be able to hold onto our parliamentary majority by fielding sympathetic independents," he said.

Mr Chang predicted that the NKP would secure 138 seats, including their proportional seats, 12 fewer than the 150 needed for an absolute majority.

Earlier predictions by three television networks based on a mixture of exit polls and telephone surveys turned out to have greatly exaggerated gains by the NKP.

Kim Dae Jung, 72, who marched back on to the political scene last year after big opposition gains in local elections in June, suffered a serious setback. He had said that he would run for the presiden-

cy next year only if yesterday's polls showed the people to be behind him.

Ruling party officials and analysts attributed the strong showing for the NKP to recent North Korean forays into the border area, which boosted the NKP's chances by persuading people to support the Government at time of threat.

"I think Kim Jong Il [the North Korean leader] helped the NKP a lot," Lee Ho Jae, a political science professor at Korea University, said.

The election outcome echoed what happened in the presidential election in Taiwan last month, when President Lee Teng-hui was victorious after China attempted to intimidate Taiwanese voters by conducting missile tests in the Taiwan Strait. North Korea sent troops into the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas in three consecutive forays over the weekend in violation

of the 1953 armistice agreement.

About 1,000 extreme-left-wing students fought the police near Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, hurling firebombs to counter volleys of teargas in a protest against the elections. "Overthrow Kim Young Sam and conservative politicians," the students shouted as they threw hundreds of firebombs at the riot police. Several police officers were engulfed in flames, but there were no serious casualties, witnesses said.

The strong showing for the conservative ULD, headed by Kim Jong Pil, the former Korean Central Intelligence Agency chief, was boosted by areas loyal to Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo, the jailed former Presidents. They are on trial charged with corruption and with leading a military rebellion that brought Mr Chun to power in 1980.



President Kim Young Sam prepares to vote in yesterday's general election

WORLD SUMMARY

UN attack on French 'racism'

Geneva: A United Nations special investigator rejected French claims to be a haven for human rights yesterday when he gave a severe account of racism and xenophobia sweeping the country, in part with official blessing (Peter Capella writes).

In a report on his mission last October, Maurice Glele-Ahanhanzo, the special investigator, said xenophobia had been fuelled by the public statements of French politicians as well as by tough nationality and immigration laws passed in 1993.

FBI warning on Unabomber mail

New York: Timber executives in northwestern America have been told by federal investigators to check their post in case the Unabomber suspect, Theodore Kaczynski, mailed a bomb before his arrest last week (Quentin Letts writes). FBI sources said a device found at Mr Kaczynski's Montana cabin bore an address and, like the deadly parcels sent by the Unabomber, also had a false sender's name and address.

Harare looking for a hangman

Harare: The Zimbabwe Government, which has more than 100 prisoners under sentence of death, is making secret approaches to prison staff to find a hangman (Jan Raath writes). The last incumbent, who was never named, died last month, taking the secrets of his trade to the grave. "He did not want to teach anyone else the job," a spokesman said.

America expels Sudan envoy

New York: Ahmed Yousif Muhammad, second secretary at Sudan's United Nations mission, was expelled from the US as part of Washington's campaign to isolate Sudan's Islamic regime (James Bone writes). He was implicated in plots to blow up the UN building in 1993 and to kill President Mubarak of Egypt.

Africans sign nuclear treaty

Cairo: Forty-three African states signed a treaty declaring Africa free of nuclear weapons, President Mubarak of Egypt told the signing ceremony the Africans had set an example which the Middle East and rest of the world should follow. (Reuters)

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Organised crime's profits at \$1,000bn

FROM REUTERS IN MANILA

ORGANISED crime gangs make \$1,000 billion (£660 billion) a year in profits and are so powerful economically that they pose a threat to developing countries and emerging democracies, a United Nations official said yesterday.

The profits include \$1 billion laundered through global financial markets every day. Eduardo Vetter, head of the Vienna-based UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division, told a conference in Manila.

He said that the estimated total of criminal profits almost equalled the annual budget of the United States. "Free trade and high-speed telecommunications make it easier to engage in multiple activities and launder money across national borders, with an estimated \$1 billion in crime profits wire-transferred through the world financial markets every day."

He added: "It has become clear that only by tackling organised crime in a concerted manner can we hope to make inroads into a problem that transcends borders and the capacity of national mechanisms alone."

Right now, Children are dying in Liberia

The fighting in Liberia has escalated dramatically. Children have been forced to flee their homes and villages, dodging bullets and mortar fire. *There is no embassy for them to run to.* Many children have received horrific injuries and lost one or both parents. *Thousands of children face possible death.*

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Foreigners evacuated amid Monrovia bloodshed

Briton condemns UN over escape ordeal in Liberia

By LEVIA LINTON

ONE of the first Britons evacuated from Monrovia, the Liberian capital, condemned the United Nations yesterday for refusing to help her when her life was in danger.

Wendy White, 38, from Staplehurst, Kent, said that, to the sound of gunfire, she and her colleagues had made a terrifying six-mile journey through the city only for officials at the UN's Riverview compound to refuse them admission for four hours. UN officials also tried to stop her and her friends from boarding one of two helicopters leaving the compound.

The officials told her and her companions that they were not a priority and that the helicopters were not intended to help with evacuation. But the German pilots refused to leave without passengers and Ms White and other Britons were eventually given seats after UN personnel were ordered not to leave.

In the confusion one Briton, Ian Christmas, 41, from Doncaster, was left behind and is believed now to be without adequate supplies of food and water. "Our fear now is that he and the others could be taken hostage," said Ms White, who returned to Britain yesterday.

She and her friends had sheltered in the house of a World Food Programme official in Monrovia for three days. "He was very good, but most of them kept themselves to themselves, to the point where we felt they were keeping

supplies to themselves," she said.

By last Monday Ms White said the rebels had looted the Mobil compound next door. "We knew we were next, and we were constantly under fear of attack. Towards the end food was running out."

Ms White, Andrew Dunham, her partner, and fellow Briton David Wood-Roberts finally boarded one of the helicopters at dusk on Monday. When they arrived in Freetown after a two-hour

Nothing had prepared me for Monrovia; it is a hell hole. Every single building was a shell

flight, Ms White said she kissed the tarmac. "I really thought I was going to die," she added.

Ms White's ordeal began when she was woken by shots and grenade explosions at 3.30am last Saturday as rebels surrounded General Roosevelt Johnson's house just two blocks from the hotel where she was staying. At 8am a rocket-propelled grenade hit the top floor while she was at reception. "The door was open and there was a big gust of wind. My legs turned to jelly

and I felt queasy. I started thinking of home," she said.

For the next 30 minutes she and Mr Dunham waited anxiously as rebels surrounded the hotel. "All we could hear was gunfire. We felt like sitting ducks."

Half an hour later soldiers from the West African peacekeeping force came to the hotel with two tanks to evacuate the guests. As one of the soldiers led them out to the convoy of cars, he was shot at.

She is glad to have escaped, but she had harsh words for the UN. "We have been appalled by the UN presence. They have so many staff and what are they doing?"

Now she is worried about her countrymen still in Liberia. "There are a hell of a lot of Britons still out there. We are desperate for them, we are very worried — I am his wife and two children," she said.

Ms White, who, with Mr Dunham, a pilot, had gone to Liberia to set up a Liberian registered airline, added: "Nothing prepared me for Monrovia. It is a hell hole. Every single building was a shell, with toddlers playing on the fifteenth floor of windowless buildings."

She added that it was extremely difficult to do business in the country. "Every time you wanted to do something you had to give backhanders." She added that her and Mr Dunham's company, Liberty Air, had just managed to land a few contracts when the fighting broke out.

Troops of peace force join in looting

By JAMES BONE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

WEST African peacekeepers joined in "very heavy, very systematic" looting as fighting continued yesterday in Monrovia, the Liberian capital, United Nations officials said.

Sylvana Foa, for the UN, said reports from the UN mission spoke of a "frenzy of looting" and that it appeared leaders of the warring factions had lost control of their fighters.

UN sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it appeared some West African peacekeepers, particularly Nigerians, had joined in the looting. The peacekeeping force, consisting of soldiers from the 16-nation Economic Community of West African States, was sent to Liberia in 1990 and is known as Ecomog.

UN military observers were forced to take refuge in the US Embassy compound during the looting. A UN scout team which toured the city found "systematic looting everywhere", but UN headquarters lost contact with its offices in Mamba Point, two miles from the city centre, where "UN Row" and the US Embassy are located. The 73 UN military observers in Monrovia fled their headquarters in Mamba Point when the gates were broken down by looters.

The UN Children's Fund and UN Development Programme offices were also reported to have been plundered, and 12 UN staff are said to have sought shelter at the US Embassy. The offices of the World Health Organisation were looted earlier in the week.



Starr signs: Starr Lammon, of Napa, California, cradling her youngest daughter Nicolette, who was born on Monday — exactly the same date as her mother and two sisters Jeirlynn, 12, left, and Ashley, aged 2

Fifteen die in German airport fire

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AT LEAST 15 people were reported killed and more than 100 injured when a fire broke out in a flower shop at Düsseldorf International airport yesterday.

Many of the casualties were overcome by thick smoke through which firefighters had to search for the victims before the blaze was brought under control, witnesses said.

Police said many of the deaths appeared to have been caused by inhaling poisonous gas. The dead were found in the shop and a lift, said police, who added that the death

count could rise because of the seriousness of some of the injuries.

A policeman and a child were among nine of the dead who were found in the lift system. Tents were set up to treat the casualties.

The fire spread rapidly through Terminal A, which primarily serves Lufthansa, police said.

A fire service spokesman said that the cause of the fire was not yet known, but the shop where the fire started was undergoing repairs. All firefighting units in Düsseldorf were deployed to

put out the blaze, while fire engines and teams poured in to help from the surrounding area.

Panic broke out in the arrivals hall when the fire erupted. Officials evacuated the terminal and closed the airport to all air traffic, police said.

ZDF television showed pictures of a deserted, smoky terminal after the fire and a body covered with a white sheet on a stretcher on the street outside. "My co-worker saw sparks flying out of a ventilation grille

over this flower store, and he immediately called the fire brigade," an unidentified young man told the television station.

Uninjured travelers were transported to hotels or to the Konrad Adenauer Airport that services Cologne and Bonn, where planes that had been scheduled to arrive at Düsseldorf were being redirected. Access roads to the airport were closed.

Düsseldorf is Germany's second busiest airport in terms of passengers after Frankfurt.

Leaders lose control of gunmen in capital

FROM BUDU KAISA IN MONROVIA

A WOMAN who had not eaten since she gave birth several days before lay groaning on the concrete floor of the casualty clinic, next to two young men shot in the back by the gunmen who have turned Monrovia into a city of bloodlust and anarchy.

"We are trying to manage but there is nothing to do to save their lives," said the French doctor with Médecins Sans Frontières, one of a team of seven who have refused the chance of a flight to safety on American helicopters.

The exhausted doctor said that many people all over the city were wounded,

but could not reach hospitals and clinics because of the fighting, which was also preventing drugs and dressings reaching treatment centres.

While a handful of expatriates remain to help Liberians, the gunmen seem bent on tribal massacre, and indiscriminate killing. Yesterday fighters fired a rocket into the Greystone compound, an American-owned site where 15,000 civilians were sheltering. The rocket killed two boys and wounded several others.

Lawlessness has overtaken Monrovia since Charles Taylor and Al Hajj Kromoh, members of a nascent coalition Government, accused Roosevelt Johnson, their Krahn tribal rival, of murder and unleashed a bloody campaign to

arrest him last week. His fighters returned in kind.

Paul Koulen, the deputy representative of the United Nations Development Programme, said: "The conflict is out of control. Charles Taylor and Al Hajj Kromoh made a monstrous miscalculation. They have forced a re-alliance of forces along tribal lines. None of them has control or can restore public order. It is anarchy." Moments earlier his offices were raided and cars looted by teenagers armed with AK47 rifles.

I have been in Liberia throughout the civil war, which broke out in 1989. In the worst days of 1990 and 1992 the warlords had some kind of control over their men, but even this has vanished.

Tyson in training with Islam to beat temptation

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK



Lafferty: takes £2.9m in settlement of estate

What the butler got

NEW YORK: A long-running dispute over the will of the tobacco heiress Doris Duke has ended with her bibulous butler accepting a lump sum of \$4.5 million (£2.9 million) (Quentin Lettis writes).

In return, Bernard Lafferty, who is barely able to read and has admitted to being an alcoholic, has agreed to resign as a co-executor of the estate. Towards the end of Miss Duke's life she fell increasingly under the spell of the ponytailed Mr Lafferty.

The agreement clears the way for the remainder of the fortune, bar the fees of advisers, trustees and attendants, to be distributed to the charities named by Miss Duke.

MIKE TYSON, the heavy-weight boxing champion, remained silent yesterday about a woman's allegation that he assaulted her in a Chicago nightclub.

His Islamic spiritual adviser, however, said that "Iron Mike" was prayerful and that although he recently mastered the five daily supplications a devout Muslim must recite, he faced a "never-ending struggle" with temptation.

Police said they were taking "appropriate action" regarding the complaint of a 25-year-old woman that Mr Tyson bit her face after they kissed in a discotheque early on Monday morning. The unnamed woman's lawyer, Jerry Lee Peeter, said that there were two witnesses. She claimed that Mr Tyson summoned her after seeing her on the dance floor.

The boxer himself remained behind the closed door of his large house in Southington, Ohio, but friends disputed the suggestion that Mr Tyson was with the woman in a roped-off part of the sick Clique club. A member of the club management claimed that throughout

his visit Mr Tyson discussed setting up a series of youth centres in Chicago — a perhaps implausible claim given the late hour. The assault, termed "sexual battery" in the police complaint, allegedly occurred at 1.30am in a private room towards the back of the club, a fashionable establishment where ordinary clubgoers can expect to mingle with the celebrities who have made it one of their haunts.

Muhammad Siddiq, a spiritual adviser who has taught Mr Tyson the tenets of his new-found faith, said that his pupil was learning a routine of "prayer, charity and fasting, trying to recognise the goodness of all human beings and trying to avoid those kind of things that keep us going in the right direction."

Clique that night was no place for avoiding temptation. The women were beautiful and the music was loud. Mr Tyson, who remains on parole after his 1992 rape conviction, had gone to Chicago ostensibly to worship at a mosque, but when he was through with his prayers he made for one of the best known honeypots in town. Mr Tyson was drinking nothing stronger than cranberry juice, said his lieutenant, but George Walker, chief probation officer for Marion County's Superior Court criminal division, said: "Bars are not the best place for parolees."

Tyson friends, however, suggested that the woman was simply trying her luck. An acquaintance of the complainant came to Mr Tyson's defence. Tammie Battle, a beauty parlour assistant, said: "She [the alleged victim] kept asking the person who took her coat if she could meet Mike Tyson."

Miss Battle said that she could detect no bite marks on the woman's face when they left Clique together.

Marital slip-up for ice skater

By QUENTIN LETTIS

TONYA HARDING, the bad girl of ice skating, has sued for divorce after less than four months of marriage. When it comes to triple salcos, Miss Harding is mustard, but in her private life she has repeatedly fallen flat on her rump.

The divorce action was started this week in Oregon after Miss Harding experienced "irreconcilable differences" with her second husband, Michael Smith. She wished him happiness and success in his career (he is a machinist) and hoped the good wishes were reciprocated (unlikely). It seems a different world from December 23, the day of their white wedding on board a yacht.

The wedding was sealed from the press because the couple hoped to sell exclusive photographs of the event to a tabloid newspaper. Fisticuffs, a car chase and screamed insults followed when it was discovered that one of the wedding guests had sold snapshots of the bride and groom to an Oregon publication.

In January 1994 Jeff Gillooly, Miss Harding's first husband, plotted to inflict a knee injury on Miss Harding's then Olympic ice-skating rival, Nancy Kerrigan. Miss Harding pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges and paid \$160,000 (£106,000) in fines and costs.

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Gibraltar tension rises after drug chase death

By DOMINIQUE SEARLE IN GIBRALTAR AND EDWARD OWEN

A DRAMATIC helicopter pursuit of a drug-running power boat racing for the Spanish coast ended yesterday when the helicopter crashed, killing a Civil Guard.

The smugglers apparently threw an oar into the aircraft's tail rotor.

The incident has caused a new diplomatic tug-of-war over the disputed territory between Britain and Spain. The boat was registered to a Briton and the involvement of a Gibraltarian has renewed Spanish anger over the use of Gibraltar for the illicit import of tobacco and drugs into Spain, often from North Africa.

Spain immediately imposed tough new border controls on routes between Spain and Gibraltar, causing delays of up to three hours for cars and increasing the transit time for pedestrians from a few minutes to half an hour.

César Braña, the Civil Governor of Cadiz, announced the imposition of "severe" and "strict" controls after the death of José Muntildaz Hidalgo, a Civil Guard aircraft mechanic.

The helicopter pilot and his communications officer were uninjured in the crash after three men in the Gibraltar-registered rigid inflatable boat

had allegedly dumped some 1,300lb of cannabis on a beach at Barbate de Franco, near Cape Trafalgar.

Yesterday David Brighty, the British Ambassador to Madrid, was summoned by the Spanish Foreign Ministry to hear José Rodríguez Spilini, Madrid's head of European diplomacy, express Spain's "profound irritation" at the incident and complain that Britain had failed to introduce effective measures on the Rock to combat illicit activities.

A Spaniard escaped from the scene but two other men, a Moroccan and a Gibraltarian, were arrested.

Señor Braña said yesterday that a broken oar was found in the smugglers' boat, indicating that it may have been thrown into the helicopter's machinery. Eye-witnesses spoke on Spanish television of the aircraft's runner hitting the water and knocking it out of control.

In Gibraltar on Wednesday, Paul Alan Tremayne, a Briton who is registered as owner of the vessel, was detained on suspicion of wasting police time after he reported the boat stolen. Royal Gibraltar police have indicated that his report came after news of the incident had broken on radio. Rigid



A powerful rigid inflatable boat, of the sort used by smugglers between North Africa and Spain via Gibraltar, speeds towards the Rock

inflatable boats are used by smugglers because of their long range. They often move across the strait at high speed at night without lights.

In an almost daily duel, Spanish Civil Guard helicopters and launches try to catch the smugglers who race across to Spain with cheap tobacco from the Rock as well as hashish brought from Morocco. Recently Britain had

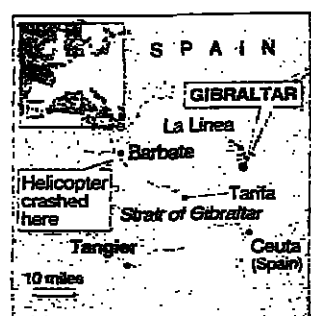
agreed to ban the use of some 200 high-powered speedboats, with names such as *Midnight Express*, that were moored in Gibraltar's marinas. Their crews would cross the few hundred yards to Spain when the all-clear, or the presence of a bribed Spanish official, was signalled by mobile telephones.

Last July the Gibraltar authorities seized all 64 rigid

inflatable boats based on The Rock. Strict quotas and controls on cheap American tobacco were later introduced, resulting in an end to the widespread tobacco smuggling. Spain partly relaxed controls at the frontier last autumn in response to the move and Gibraltar authorities demanded detailed paperwork and requirements from the boat owners. As a result,

only 12 vessels were returned in rules aimed at avoiding owners obtaining court orders which on previous occasions have succeeded in defeating legislation. However, it is known that some smugglers had moved their bases to Ceuta, the Spanish North African enclave, and some Spanish coastal villages.

Leading article, page 17



London pledges action to halt the smugglers' speedboats

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN last night expressed "deep regret" at the death of the Spanish Civil Guard killed while pursuing drug smugglers near Gibraltar, and insisted that it was committed to stamping out smuggling on the Rock.

The Foreign Office said it would co-operate in the investigation, and announced an immediate check on the speedboats licensed in Gibraltar. However, a spokesman said that since July there had been tighter control on the licensing of

fast inflatable boats, and the Gibraltar Government had reduced their number from 65 to 11.

The Foreign Office, while not rejecting Spain's protest to David Brighty, the British Ambassador, suggested that this did not take account of the co-operation between Britain and Spain to curb smuggling into southern Spain. It noted that the 30-minute meeting had been "businesslike" — diplomatic language for sharp and cool — and said the ambassador had reiterated Britain's commitment to last year's measures to tighten law and order in Gibraltar. The Government is

embarrassed that the incident has revived Spanish protests over Gibraltar at a time when it hoped that Gibraltar's new laws on drug smuggling and money laundering, enacted last July, would reduce tensions with Madrid over the Rock.

Earlier, Britain's troubled relations with Gibraltar led to a confrontation between the Foreign Office and the Government of Joe Bossano, the Chief Minister, that almost culminated 18 months ago in the suspension of the Rock's constitution and the imposition of direct rule.

At issue was the chorus of complaints from Spain and Brussels that Gibraltar was becoming a haven for cigarette smuggling, drug running and money laundering. Madrid accused Mr Bossano of refusing to co-operate in counter-drug smuggling, and imposed draconian border restrictions, with long delays and rigorous customs searches. Britain protested to Madrid. But at the same time the Foreign Office demanded that Gibraltar take swift steps to curb smuggling and comply fully with EU banking directives.

From the summer of 1994 until

December, Douglas Hurd, then Foreign Secretary, had an acrimonious correspondence with Mr Bossano, insisting that he do more to put into effect dozens of EU directives that were being circumvented. Britain offered to send over officials to help draft legislation. It gave Mr Bossano a deadline of January 1995 to comply.

Finally, as relations between Britain, Spain and Gibraltar became ever more tense, Mr Hurd and Javier Solana, then Spanish Foreign Minister, met in London to agree on measures to halt the use of the Rock for smuggling and ensure

that differences on Gibraltar did not derail overall relations between Britain and Spain.

Britain is responsible for Gibraltar's dealings with the EU and its external relations under the 1969 constitution. The British Government, wary of suggestions that it is ready to see an eventual transfer of sovereignty, has refused to discuss Gibraltar's status in the regular meetings with Spain. Under the Treaty of Utrecht, which ceded the Rock to Britain, the territory cannot opt for independence: if Britain relinquishes control, sovereignty returns to Spain.

Riddle of Paris murder house

FROM SUSAN BELL
IN PARIS

THE mysterious and violent deaths of two successful architects and their children is gripping France and puzzling police. The bodies of Piotr Zakrzewski, 48, his wife Marguerite, 46, and their sons, Adam, 16, and Arthur, 12, were found this week in the family home in Sceaux, a wealthy Paris suburb.

Marguerite Zakrzewski was hanging in her nightdress in the stairwell. At her feet lay Arthur, who apparently died from strangulation. A thick rope around his neck was attached to the bannister. The knots were described by one investigator as having been "loosened, as if they had been undone after the murder".

Upstairs, Piotr lay on the couple's bed, his throat slit. There were several knife wounds to his body. On the ground floor, Adam lay dead in his bedroom. His throat had also been cut.

The bodies were found on Tuesday afternoon by a friend who attended the nearby Lycée Lakanal, where the brothers were pupils. The boy had invited Adam to the cinema on Sunday but he had refused without giving a reason. When neither brother attended classes after the Easter weekend, the boy visited the Zakrzewski's house. Through the half-open door, he saw Mme Zakrzewski's body.

The police think that either the family were the victims of a murderer, or the husband and two sons were killed by Mme Zakrzewski before she committed suicide.

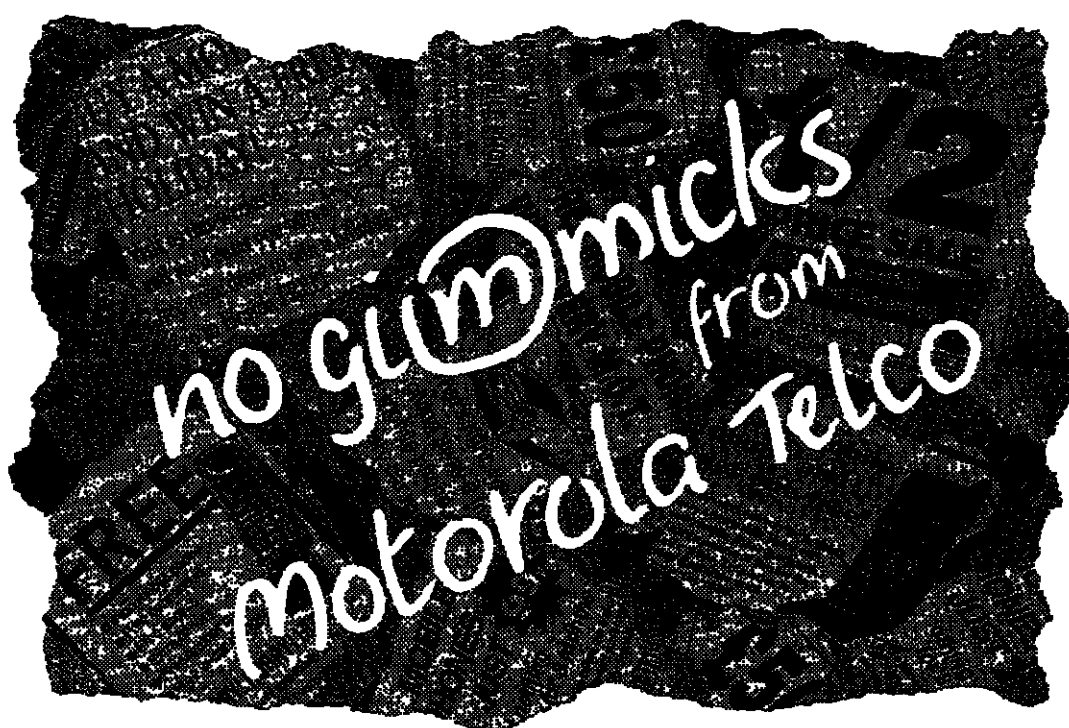
Investigators have ruled out burglary. Everything was clean as if it had been tidied up, the police say.

The police suspect that the father and elder son were killed in their sleep. No trace of blood was found on Mme Zakrzewski's body or clothing. The weapon used to kill Piotr and Adam is missing.

According to a female relation interviewed by the police, the couple did not have any financial or marital problems. They emigrated to France from Poland in the early 1970s, studied architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts before founding their award-winning architecture firm, PLL, in 1981.



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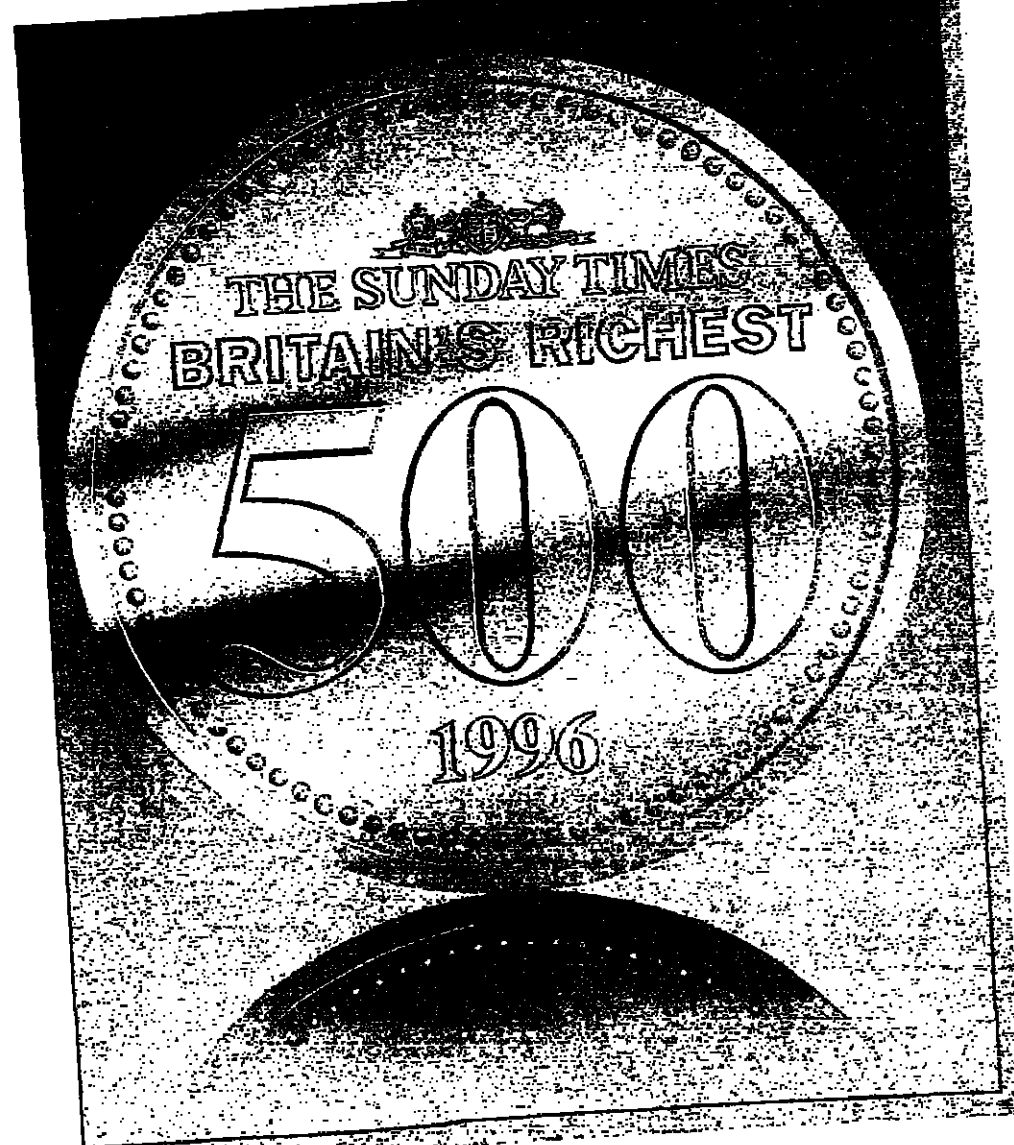


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إلى الأمل

Michael Binyon takes a wry father's view of all-night jam sessions and sweaty pub gigs



The Replicant Saints go marching in — and, they hope, up — with, clockwise from left, Struan Robertson, Tom Rogerson, Martin Binyon, Tom Dunn, Eva Rice and William Prideaux

My son, the rock star

Of course if he had wanted to play in an orchestra, I would have been intrusively ambitious. You must practise. You must sit the exams. Don't waste your time at parties. Listen to this player, that recording, come to this concert and I'll get tickets.

I could see the legend beginning: the seven-year-old in Russia taking piano lessons with Natasha, the encouraging school reports from Mr Johns, the teenager trumpeting Bach on the school chapel organ, evenings of Beethoven and Mozart on the Yamaha... My son, the pianist, I would perhaps boast one day. But no. Reality usually dawns

on most parents, and when the house shook all day with the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Muddy Waters, I knew that the classical world had been vanquished by the more raucous tastes of a different generation. So it was to be pop instead. Drums all over the house. A keyboard on the dining-room table. Practice with the band: the first gig in a pub: all-night jamming sessions with Tom on the guitar trying out new rhythms, new lyrics. The first vital demonstration tape. But my son, the pop star? Impossible.

Well, not quite impossible it seems. The Replicant Saints have begun to go marching in — all six of them. They filled

the fox room at the Dog and Fox more than a year ago — mostly with friends, girlfriends and supporters, of course, but with dry ice and some strobe lighting they put on a lively show. Things have got a bit more professional since then. The amplifiers have got bigger, the keyboard more sophisticated, the lyrics more subtle and wistful.

At Christmas they played at the Half Moon in Putney — a vital first rung up the pop ladder, Martin insisted. We sneaked in for half an hour, and an uncertain pride vied in me with nostalgia — didn't I remember the raw energy, the fug, the showiness and the beery cheers in the hallowed

Sixties? Even Martin's great-aunt, 85, was impressed. "They make a terrible noise. And I really don't think the girl knows how to move at all." It was a compliment bound to assure success.

Eva, the back-up singer, does know how to move, of course. Better still, with the surname Rice and a father who has written enough lyrics to make all Argentina cry, she knows how to move the diarists and columnists. Her picture and the Replicant Saints made a national newspaper. A Bristol radio station followed. A Sunday tabloid promised a profile. And they all found an irresistible theme: not only is it a case of like father, like

daughter, but the men around her with wild hair and zany clothes are all Etonians. A toffs' band! Now, there's an item for the pop press. All that money spent on posh education, and today's OEs are going out to govern not the colonies but the other field where Britain now reigns supreme. A whole new meaning, perhaps, to the Playing Fields of Eton.

We parents are less convinced. "You still have to pass the exams." I found myself saying, censoriously, "Have you done any work yet on the Victorians? What can you tell me about *In Memoriam*? You haven't even read any Tennyson yet."

But for a 21-year-old the question whether Gallipoli failed because of poor execution or was a flawed idea from the start seems less urgent than how to design a striking cover for the demo tape or how much improvisation should take over from the basic rhythm.

And then what about jobs? When the Saints, scattered now across the universities of the country, get together for practice there is talk of a proper tour: expenses-only appearances at anniversary bashes and college functions rising through pubs, clubs and a nice little earner at an Oxford ball to bigger halls and more ambitious venues.

Perhaps I should be dreaming of the bonanza, the moment when the star will buy his little old parents a cottage in Cornwall. Dream on. "Haven't you been down to the careers centre yet?" I nag. "Haven't you any idea what you want to do?"

One promising post-Saints career would be a politician. It seems that every Tory minister nowadays spent his youth in a pop band, and some, such as John Redwood, seem to be reverting to happier, wetter days: the outspoken backbencher now confesses to liking Britpop and is fishing for the student vote. And wasn't Tony Blair in a student rock group? Down Under, Paul Keating managed a band before taking up politics. And in Norway at least the addition carries on: the Finance Minister plays a guitar in a group, and several of his Cabinet colleagues shed their suits at weekends and make their statements with guitars and

drums: all quite natural in Norway.

There comes the dreadful realisation that I ought to take a vague, parental interest in the field. I know about plectrums, I can distinguish some elements of Britpop, I am used to James Brown and the JB's and like blues in limited doses.

I have discussed touch-sensitive keyboards and synthesizers with other colleagues also being pressed for a generous parental loan. Beyond that, it is hopeless.

But all communication is not lost: Martin also cherishes a passion for opera and is trying, gently, to educate an illiterate father.

"Do you want to go to *La traviata*? Shall I try for tickets?" It's code, of course, and means: I want to get to this performance, but I need you to buy the tickets. I usually fall for it. And I shall sneak into the Half Moon on Tuesday when the Replicant Saints are back, by special request. Up there, slick in black, will be My Son the Pop Star.

It seems every Tory minister spent his youth in a pop group

Ambition that flies sky high

Norris McWhirter on the deadly urge to break records

In the United States a sudden large crowd is often compared to a posse of lawyers around a lift accident. Yesterday's tragic light aircraft crash in the business area of Cheyenne, Wyoming, by a seven-year-old "pilot", Jessica Dubroff, seems likely to create both legal precedents and new laws.

Taking off in a rainstorm on Wednesday from Half Moon Bay, California, the Cessna 177B four-seater had aboard the 4ft 2in tall Jessica, her father, Lloyd Dubroff, and a flight instructor. Jessica was fitted with leg extensions to enable her to reach the foot controls. Before take-off she pronounced: "I am going to break the record."

Her father confined himself to the comment: "I would be more worried about her horseback riding."

Knowing the vicarious pleasure that parents and grandparents derive from the precocity of their progeny, successive editors of the *Guinness Book of Records* have long had a policy of censoring the publication of records of, for instance, the youngest swimmer or the youngest marathon runner.

There can be few sights more cruel than loving parents working on their reflected glory image. One of the most harrowing cases was the postwar one of an Australian father, determined that his four-month-old daughter should become the world's youngest unaccompanied swimmer.

The record to which the late Jessica Dubroff was probably referring was so heavily publicised on the front pages of American newspapers that it appears in order to recite it. On February 24, 1983, the freckled Cody A. Locke flew a Cessna 150 solo near Medulla airfield, Mexico, aged nine years 316 days.

In Britain the extremes are less extreme. The RAF, during the Second World War, accepted a certain Thomas Dobney for flying training. It was only when he was sporting his "wings" and the three stripes of a sergeant that he admitted that he had overstated his age and was in fact only 15 years 5 months old. However, he was not even the British record holder because, in Decem-

ber 1942, an aircraft-crazy boy named James Studeley, aged 14 years 5 months, not only took off on a maiden joyride in an unattended Piper Cub trainer aircraft, but landed it in one piece. He then opened the door to help out his younger brother, a 13-year-old passenger. The local constabulary at Ludgershall, Wiltshire, were nonplussed as to what precise offence had been committed.

From a passenger's point of view the oldest pilot might seem almost as dangerous as the youngest. In 1979 Ed McCarty of Kimberley, Idaho, was still keeping his 30-year-old



Fatal flight: Jessica

Ercoupe in the air by dint of virtually rebuilding it, until he was 94.

The legendary Air Commodore Harold "Daddy" Probyn, CBE, DSO, who had flown in the First World War in the Royal Flying Corps, was still flying in Kenya 67 years later, aged 92. More recently in 1993, Stanley Wood (1896-1994) of Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, was still taking the controls of a Piper Cherokee Warrior in a flying career which spanned 80 per cent of the history of aviation, which began in 1903, when the Wright brothers first flew in their stiff collars, ties and dark business suits at Kill Devil Hill, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

One can only suspect that Sir Christopher Chataway, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, had not got to hear of Stanley Wood. Sir Christopher records in *Who's Who* that he himself "briefly held the world 5,000-metre record" and clearly understands the human passion for breaking records.

30p

THE TIMES

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Philip Howard



■ High seriousness is still the hallmark of classics — but it's fun, too

Nottingham: When that April with his showers sweet, the drought of March hath pierced to the root, then people long to go on conference. The Classical Association begins its annual meeting here today. About 300 professional, amateur and aspirant classicists are coming back to bed, and lectures exploring such topics as violent women and the virtue of single combat, father of the European duel. And *The Times* is here to cover it. Why? St Jerome's anti-feminism and Aristotle's notions about dreams may be fascinating for the curious. But they do not sound promising material for the front-page "splash" or even the quirky "basement" article of a modern newspaper. Where is the beef in Boethius? What is the relevance of Ancient Rome?

Well, the sentimental answer is that from the beginning *The Times* has always covered the Classical Association, familiarly known as the Class Ass. It was even launched by a letter to the Editor from Professor J.P. Postgate of Cambridge. Its first meeting was presided over by the Master of the Rolls and attended by the Vice-Chancellors of Oxford and Cambridge and the great and grave from universities, schools, Church, and Parliament. Its first meeting was allocated two full columns in our newspaper, which then had only eight columns for news. And much of that was given over to high-minded worry about the "decline" of the classics.

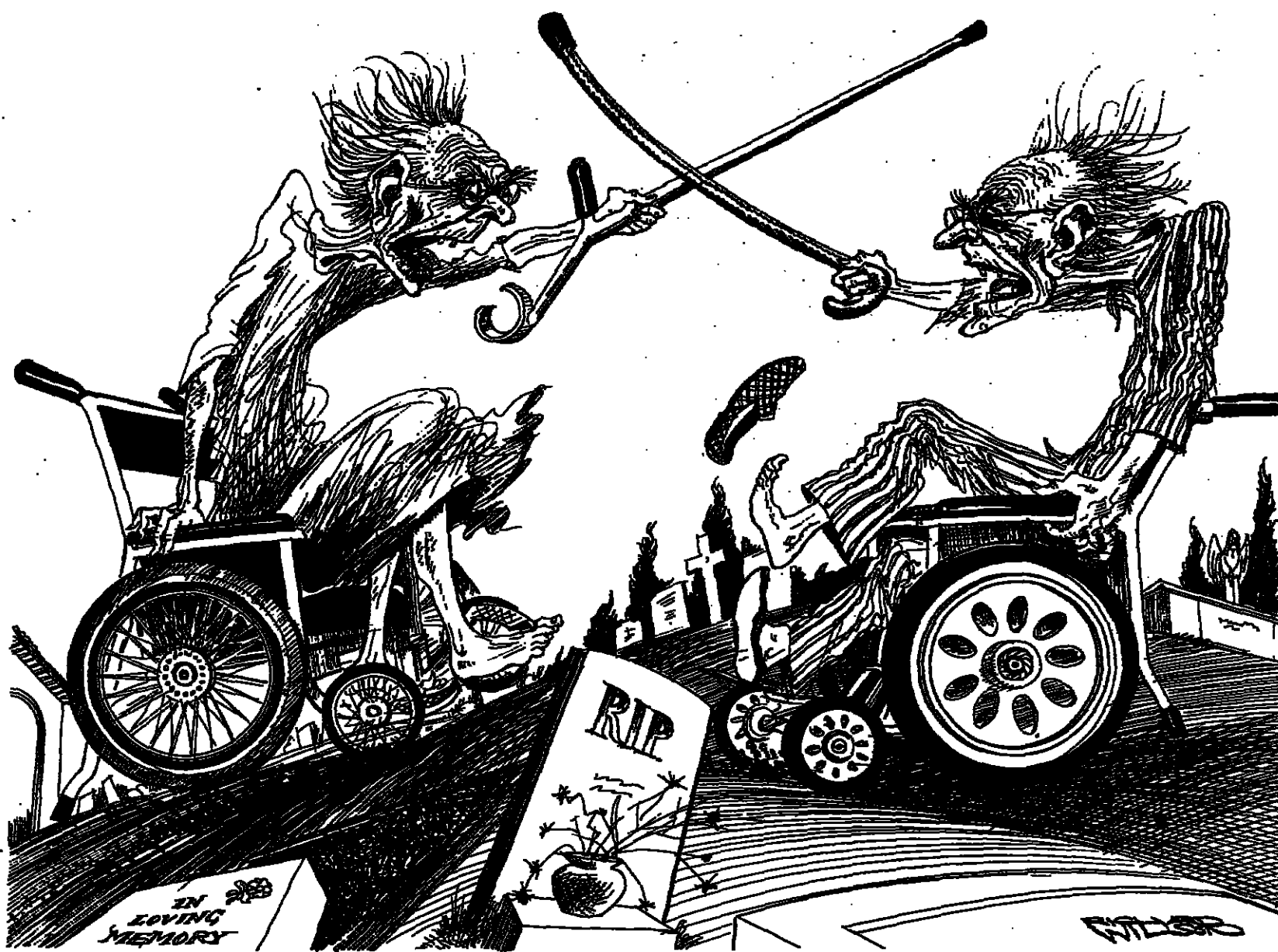
Professor Postgate said that there was a tawdriness, a feverishness, a frivolity about modern literature of which they would look in vain for parallels in the literature of Greece and Rome. "Think of Plato and Rudyard Kipling!" (laughter). Kipling was the Martin Amis of the day, but that first audience would not have laughed so loud if they could have read Kipling's brilliant translations of Horace. Professor Postgate was scornful about literature in translation, calling it "tinned salmon". What would he say today, when most of the classics in schools is done in translation, and few, even at universities, compose prose and verse?

But he would be wrong to bear his breast and raise the old ululation that classics are dead. Each generation rediscovers the classics for its own preoccupations, and finds new relevance in them. In 1903, at the high tide of Empire, the classics were the training for the modern proconsuls, praetors and prefects. An apt quotation from Horace was as important to a political soundbite as a reference to a soap opera or a pop singer is today. The papers to the Class Ass a century ago were ripe with lessons from imperial history, and joys and titles.

The archbishops and prime ministers at that first meeting would have been astonished at how our notion of the classics has expanded. This week we shall range from proto-archaeology to the more disreputable Byzantine emperors. There will be 100 lectures instead of half a dozen. And instead of grave professors, many of them will be young postgraduates and teachers chalking up merits for their CVs. Their topics include many that Professor Postgate would have deemed frivolous, such as women, slaves, the enemy within and other underdogs of the ancient world.

Professor Postgate's eyes would pop at our panel on literary psychoanalysis and some of the "back to basics" deconstruction and reductionism that will go on here this week. He would be gratified by the sessions on such hardy perennialisms as Greek tragedy and Roman history. He would be delighted that Professor Jonathan Powell of Newcastle University (the star of our generation) is running a Latin prose seminar for anybody who still enjoys writing stylish Latin as a challenge and a pleasure.

And he would be relieved to find that, a century on, the classics are alive and strutting their stuff in Nottingham. They are still relevant because they are the foundations of our civilisation: literature and culture. The old things still make news because they are eternally new, and more interesting than the daily ephemera. And they are fun. And that is why *The Times* still covers the Class Ass. How could it not?



Deliver us from hatred

Where brotherly love and collegiality have been poisoned, animosity may be implacable this side of the grave

This is a story about hatred, but it is a very sad kind of hatred, the very worst kind. And what would be the worst kind of hatred? Well, I call it the worst because it should be the most powerful kind of happiness and love, but it is, in fact, the opposite. Indeed, it is doubly sad, for I am speaking about two men who should be showing others how to love, because they are from the same family. And yet the haters in this sad story are not just two men who hate each other, they are two brothers who hate each other.

Before I start, I must do some difficult thinking myself, for I have to ask myself if I hate anyone — anyone at all. And I also have to look back on anger to see if I have borne hatred in the past. An answer to such questions cannot be quickly and simply found, presumably because the thing we are examining is so difficult to define.

It seems that hatred is a very powerful word, not to be used lightly or without careful thought, even by the truly wronged. After all, the *Prayer Book* asks delivery from "hypocrisy, envy, hatred and malice", and I think that the *Prayer Book* felt hatred more powerfully than the other sins. True, the child demanding but not getting another chocolate will stamp his foot and tell his mother he hates her, but we smile at that kind of hate because it is unreal and momentary. After all, if mother thought her offspring really hated her, there would be thoughts in the nursery so terrible that the world would spin round and crumble. No, we are not talking about real hatred there.

Try to examine the real kind. Try to cross the bridge from nursery to reality. Try to understand what real hatred comprises. Try to call up the past, even a savage past, mired in anger, but one in which you now think you cannot find the hatred that you once felt. Almost all of us will find, to our great astonishment — certainly to mine — that it is almost impossible to draw up a substantial list of those whom you truly hate. You dislike X, you dislike him very much, perhaps he bores you, perhaps he sneers at you, perhaps he says horrible things about one you love. Nevertheless, what you feel is disdain, anger, disgust, mendacity, cowardice, meanness, stupidity — put them all together, and even now we are not feeling true hatred.

It seems that hatred is almost negligible. If so, three cheers for the human race; however much it dislikes its neighbours, it doesn't hate them. But I did not say that hatred doesn't exist: I said it was very rare indeed. You see, the human race is a very fine thing, but it is not entirely perfect. And to prove it, I bring forward the brothers Maurice and Hyman Berger, respectively aged 75 and 81, and who hate each other so profoundly, so remorselessly, so crazily, that Maurice very recently took a car-jack handle and repeatedly hit Hyman, causing injuries to his face and his arms, after which Maurice smashed the windscreen and window of his car.

In my time I have said much about judges, most of it derogatory, but in this case I would have liked to leap into the middle of the courtroom and shake the judge by the hand. And why? Because, when he finished judging the case of the two brothers, he said to the pitiful pair that "Heaven knows, we have a short enough time on this earth — you and your brother rather less than most... I shall be rather more impressed if that remorse is demonstrated by a real effort to make your peace with your brother for the few remaining years allotted to you."

Now then, hatred is surely one of the most terrible stopping-points in man's struggle from birth to death. But when the haters come from the same body, a mere six years apart, we must stop and think very hard. It is odd enough to have siblings who do not like each other, but hatred? Hatred? Hatred so powerful that it comes to blows, and blows that amount to (I quote the judge) "a vicious and potentially lethal assault"? And, for that matter, "Over several months, more than 400 early-hours calls were recorded until Hyman began High Court proceedings that put Maurice at risk of jail if he persisted." And even,

"Annette [Hyman's wife] received an elaborately wrapped, perfumed parcel addressed in Maurice's handwriting. At first she thought it might be a peace offering, but when she opened it she found it contained what seemed to be human excrement."

That is real hatred, and hatred within the family, perhaps the worst kind. But the very worst kind is what followed the end of the court case: it was easy to miss altogether. It was only ten words, saying "the brothers left court without a word to each other."

I shall return to the brothers, but I must pause to inspect the two doctors (and surely doctors should give a good impression) who shared a surgery for 20 years, but then fell out. And "oh, what a fall was there". Each hated the other, hated so much that no fewer than six times the police had to be called, and once the surgery staff had to lock themselves in the waiting room for safety, so violent was the fighting between these two healers. And worse still, the Health Services Authority became alarmed about the effect on the health of the patients. Inevitably, there was a tribunal, costing some £100,000, with 37 witnesses and 860 documents. And that was because two doctors had fallen out, after many years of it, seemed, perfect harmony.

But now, within the doctors' surgery, there raged true hatred: it was the exact parallel of the rage within the family. One of the two healers accused the other of alcohol dependency and drug abuse, adding that he turned up to work in a dishevelled state and was incoherent and unintelligible, plus smashing the other's computer. The first healer accused the other of rifling his patients' files and spitting at him, and each of them claimed that the other tried to steal the other's patients. And just as the two

brothers "left the court without a word to each other" so "both men were unrepentant and determined to stay".

What lesson does the story of the crazy brothers and the no less crazy doctors teach? Many, perhaps most, would say that the world is a random shuffling of the cards, and the shuffler can have no hope of finding any sense anywhere in the universe. It is tempting to take that view, but I do not. I believe that the lesson, when rightly studied, will take the opposite conclusion. We have seen two pairs of haters, and only two. Why do you suppose that the pitiful brothers and the pitiful doctors found themselves in the headlines? Surely, the answer is because such tragic absurdities are so rare. And I come back to the extraordinary thought that in civilised countries there is true hatred, but it is almost incredibly rare. Why?

I can give only one answer: it is that human beings who, seeing the world around them, weigh up — not consciously, of course — the pros and cons of life and what we make of it. Why, when we read about the brothers who hate each other, and the doctors who similarly cannot live in harmony even in a place made entirely for healing, we are puzzled, and sometimes much more than puzzled. Look back for a moment at what I said when I began: that hatred is astonishingly rare.

It is, but just look about you: there is fighting, there is cheating, there is stealing, there is stabbing, there is murder itself, and yet hatred remains infrequent. There is another clue, and a powerful one: take the madmen who hate their brothers, and take the other madmen who, examining patients, are still raging in hatred against their partners. What do we see first about these two haters? It is not the raging or the name-calling, it is only the stupidity and the silliness, so we are free to despise such people, rightly, as fools.

Can folly alone push out hatred? I am not sure. Can hatred push out folly? Alas, yes. That wise judge urged wisely. But I fear that his words have fallen on barren ground, and it will be too late to realise that the judge was right. And those doctors, too, will go to their graves without understanding why. And all they needed to understand was to look about and see so few consumed with hatred.

Elegy for an African Utopia

Richard West on Liberia, end of an American dream

The collapse of Liberia brings to an end the old dream of generations of Africans exiled by slavery in America, of going back to live in the country of their ancestors. The "Back to Africa" movement, as it was called in the 1920s, had come into being a century earlier, when a group of free black Americans first settled in Liberia.

The American Colonization Society was founded by northern Evangelical Christians and Southern politicians, who wanted, for different reasons, to help free, indigent blacks to start a new life in Africa. The idea had come from the British settlement in nearby Sierra Leone, founded in 1787 with some of the 30,000 blacks then living in England.

The first colonists in Liberia met furious resistance from the natives; moreover the death toll from tropical fevers proved that this was not simply the white man's grave. However, by 1847, Liberia was robust enough to declare itself an independent republic under President Joseph Jenkins Roberts, a light-skinned "man of colour" as he called himself.

The United States would not recognise Liberia until 1862, largely because it did not want a black ambassador in Washington. But already in 1848 President Roberts was received in London by Queen Victoria, who presented Liberia with a transport ship and a four-gun sloop.

In the debate over slavery in the United States before the Civil War, the abolitionists denounced the American Colonization Society, accusing the settlers in Liberia of slaughtering native Africans. The leading anti-slavery propagandist, William Lloyd Garrison, said that the few thousand settlers sent to Liberia could not relieve the plight of the two million slaves and half a million free blacks in the United States.

Nevertheless, Liberia in the mid-19th century flourished from cotton, sugar and the first palm kernels shipped to Europe. The native coffee, the famous Liberian, was sent to New York and Liverpool on ships flying the Lone Star flag, actually owned by Liberians, as few are today. Even the African explorer, Sir Richard Burton, who was a negrophobe, compared Liberia favourably with Britain's Sierra Leone.

In the 1860s a pure black Liberian, Benjamin Anderson, made a journey to the interior, getting on famously with the Mandingo people, and afterwards writing a much better book than Burton's. Edward Wilmot Blyden, a Liberian scholar, wrote what are now classic works on the syllabuses of black studies departments everywhere. Blyden, who was a friend of Gladstone, was twice his country's ambassador to London.

Liberia suffered from the 1870s onwards, when the European powers joined in the "scramble for Africa", annexing its hinterland and undercutting its exports. Brazil started to grow Liberian coffee. Some Liberians, including Blyden, believed that Liberia should exchange independence for British protection and financial support.

Liberia was saved from bankruptcy after the First World War by the American Firestone Rubber Company. In the early 1920s, the United States consumed 80 per cent of the world's rubber, mostly in car tyres, but grew less than 1 per cent under its own flag. By an agreement in 1926, Firestone was given Liberia's existing rubber plantations, as well as a 99-year lease on a million acres of forest, the right of harbour construction and effective control of the revenue.

The Europeans, especially the British, hotly resented this US intrusion, and during the 1930s tried to prove that Liberia was engaged in the slave trade, selling labour to Spanish colonies. In fact the abuse of forced labour was no worse than in several British colonies. The novelist Graham Greene, in his travel book *Journey Without Maps* in 1936, compared Liberia favourably with Sierra Leone.

During the 1920s, Marcus Garvey, a Jamaica-born journalist and orator, started a Back to Africa movement in the United States, exhorting blacks to take pride in their colour, and also denouncing mulattos and Jews. At a huge convention in Harlem in 1920, attended by uniformed ranks of the African Legion, the Universal Cross Nurses and the black Eagle Flying Corps, Garvey promised: "We shall now organise the four hundred million negroes of the world into a vast organisation to plant the banner of freedom in the great continent of Africa."

Garvey proposed in 1924 that the first 30,000 emigrants from the United States should sail to Liberia on ships of his own Black Star line. However the Back to Africa movement collapsed when the Liberian Government refused to accept these immigrants. But the idea lived on into the 1960s, when black Americans opened the best ice-cream parlour in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia.

Under the rule of the genial, corrupt President W.V.S. Tubman, one of the oligarchy of American-Liberians, the country survived into the 1970s without the war and terror that had engulfed most of independent Africa. The end came in 1980, with the first of many military revolts, when Tubman's successor and most of the American-Liberian elite were tied to stakes on the beach and machine-gunned.

Richard West is the author of *Back to Africa*, a History of Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Ooh ah, scholar

ERIC CANTONA has leapt from the football field into the groves of academe. The footballing philosopher is to be the subject of a doctoral thesis.

A Frenchman affiliated to the sociology department at Leicester University has been given permission to do a PhD in "Cantona studies". Claude Boli, brother of the former French international Basile Boli, is using Cantona as an example to analyse the differences between French and English soccer.



Thinking man: Eric Cantona

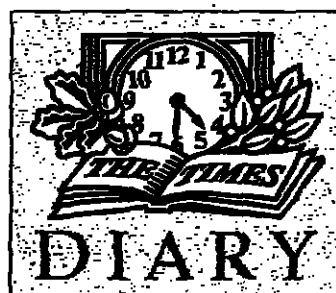
"Eric has said he will help me with my research," says Boli. "I have known him since we were teenagers." Boli is living in Manchester while he interviews Cantona, who has invited him to all United's home games.

Cantona fancies himself as something of a man of letters. His most famous, if somewhat baffling, utterance came at a press conference after his arrest for kicking a Crystal Palace supporter: "When the seagulls are following the trawler it is because they think the sardines will be thrown into the sea." Nobody understood what he was on about, but he has at least found a soulmate in Boli: the two are having trumpet lessons together.

Bushed

AS CONSERVATIVES continue to squirm at the sight of Tony Blair schmoozing with President Clinton, they rue the day they decided to help George Bush in 1992. Back then, Mark Fulbrook was the strategist at Conservative Central Office assigned the job of muck-raking on candidate Bill Clinton for the Republicans. Clinton has never forgiven John Major.

While the Tories have suffered since 1992, Fulbrook, now a polit-



ical consultant, has thrived. He has helped several young Tory thrusters to find safe seats as well as helping Norman Lamont, whose long search for a seat had taken on biblical proportions. This summer, however, Clinton should watch his back again. Fulbrook, a former adviser to Speaker Newt Gingrich, will be renewing his American connection by helping the Republicans with their convention.

Screen first

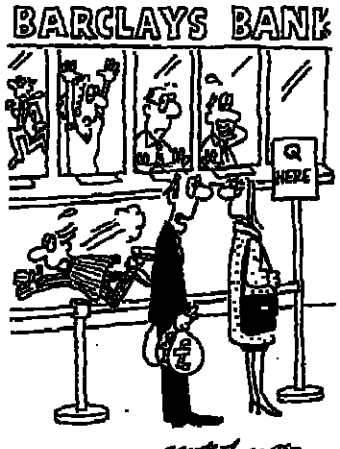
WITH THE gushing publicity surrounding Prince Edward's forthcoming programme about the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, one could be forgiven for thinking that his television career has finally gone up a gear.

He may soon be forced to make an abrupt pit-stop, however. Lawyers are threatening to pull another of his documentaries, due to be shown on April 22, about one of

the finest racing cars ever built. The Top Gear special, about a missing Mercedes Silver Arrow built by Hitler and later acquired by Nicolae Ceausescu, has been 18 months in the making. And as screening day approaches, a fretful Prince has been daily on the blower to top BBC executives to find out what's going on.

"Basically he came up with a much harder story than he was expecting and I don't think he knows quite what they are going to do with it," says one source. The BBC admits to trouble: "There have been considerable problems with this project. It has been put back and put back."

There's no sign of the Duke of Edinburgh easing up on public



"I made a bomb this week"

duties just because Sunday April 21 happens to be his wife's 70th birthday. Rose-tinted monarchists hoping that the Sovereign will enjoy a quiet birthday lunch with Prince Philip are to be disappointed. The old boy plans to attend a charity cricket match instead.

Stumped

MAJOR Ron Ferguson is bating for Jilly Cooper. At the launch of her new novel about fumbings in the orchestra pit, *Appassionata*, he suggested that the cricket world should be the arena for her next blockbuster. The "galloping" Major, who has bowled the occasional maiden over, says Jilly has already dropped in to research the idea at his new indoor cricket school. "There are the same old-field shenanigans in cricket as in anything else," declared the Major. And he should know.

Hopping mad

SPORTS NEWS from Sweden: a springy character by the name of Snuffy has hopped into the record books as the winner of the inaugural Rabbit Olympics. The most ludicrous activity now in existence, bunny athletics claims to be the fastest-growing sport in Scandinavia. Channel 4 has been covering the event.

The floppy-eared were fed a strict pre-competition diet of ba-



Bunny boom in Sweden

nanas and sugar. The shock of the tournament was that the Swedish favourite, Flames of Fame, took only the bronze medal. "She had sex before the tournament," explained her owner. "Always a disaster."

One's nag

I WAS delighted to see that Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother yesterday enjoyed better fortune on the turf than in the Irish National on Monday, when her chaser Norman Conqueror cracked a knee and was later put down.

At Fontwell in West Sussex, Her Majesty's light blue and buff colours were carried to victory by Keel Row, an 8-1 chance in the Gallagher Group Handicap Hurdle. "Great fillip to everyone, especially Her Majesty," said trainer Tim Thomson Jones. "It's just what we needed."

P.H.S

OBITUARIES

AIR COMMODORE A. H. McM. HELY

Air Commodore A. H. McM. Hely, CB, OBE, died on March 21 aged 87. He was born on February 16, 1909.

UNIVERSALLY known as "Tim", A. H. McM. Hely was an admired supply officer in the Royal Air Force, in which he served for 30 years. He was on the staff of Lord Louis Mountbatten at Supreme Allied Command, South-East Asia, during the latter part of the Second World War, and towards the end of his career became an ADC to the Queen.

His particular sphere of expertise was in the movement of explosives, a speciality that was of the utmost importance after war broke out and munitions of all sorts were being produced in vast quantities, and had to be brought in safety from the factories to the squadrons which needed them. In the postwar period Hely had overall responsibility for the task of supervising the dispersal or storage of the fearsome arsenal of bombs, rockets, gun ammunition and other explosives which had been built up by the RAF during the war. (Many of the 1,000lb bombs used by the RAF in the Falklands War of 1982 were, in fact, wartime manufacture, and had to be brought out of storage where they had lain since being decommissioned after 1945. Equipped to be laser-guided, these vintage weapons proved highly effective against the Stanley runway and other targets.)

Arthur Hubert McM. Hely was born in Southsea into a naval family. He grew up in New Zealand between the wars, completing his education at Auckland University. Despite opposition from his father, a distinguished naval officer in the dashing Beatty tradition who saw no future for an independent air force, he set his heart on joining the RAF. He worked his passage home on a Chinese collier in 1932, only to find on arrival in Britain that he had missed the deadline for applying for a permanent commission by three months.

Nothing daunted, he joined the Reserve, and completed the flying training necessary to qualify for his wings. During this time the Air Ministry announced that four permanent commissions were to be awarded



by competitive examination, and he came top of 300 entrants. He was granted a permanent commission in the Equipment (now the Supply) Branch of the RAF, one month before the completion of the 12 months' Reserve service that would have qualified him for his flying badge, on which he had pinned his hopes. Despite this disappointment, his loyalty and devotion to the service never wavered, and his professionalism rapidly developed until he was among the most promising junior officers of his branch.

He undertook and completed a tour in Iraq shortly before the outbreak of war in 1939. After specialising in the storage and movement of explosives he spent the next three years, interrupted by the Staff College course in 1942, either actively engaged in explosives

ordered by the RAF during the war. It was a colossal and delicate task involving weaponry ranging from the awesome 22,000lb Grand Slam — the heaviest bomb ever dropped in anger by the RAF — down to .303 ammunition for rifles and gun turrets, and very cartridges for signalling.

Hely moved on from there, first to Headquarters 42 Group as Senior Air Staff Officer, and then, in turn, to Headquarters Fighter Command and Headquarters Far East Air Force in Changi, Singapore, each time as Senior Equipment Staff Officer. In 1957 he was made ADC to the Queen, a post he held until confirmed in the rank of air commodore in 1959.

He again returned home in 1958, to the Air Ministry, and then to Headquarters Maintenance Command in Andover as Air Commodore Operations, a post he held until he retired in 1964. In 1962 he was appointed CB. Retirement led to no slackening of appetite for work or loss of interest in all that went on around him. Above all, he was an enthusiastic and accomplished sportsman, and this interest continued to his death. He had represented Auckland University at boxing and rugby, and toured Fiji with the University XV in 1932. When he returned home, he continued to play rugby, regularly appearing for Blackheath, and was a noted cricketer for service and local teams, maintaining a deadly wrist spin until he had to retire to the sidelines and become an equally keen spectator.

Pre-eminent among his interests were golf, which he continued to play until the last few years, and sailing. It was while on the Reserve, and serving as skipper on the yacht *Alisa*, belonging to Sergeant A. M. Sullivan, the barrister who had defended Sir Roger Casement at his treason trial in 1916, that he met his future wife, Laura, the Sergeant's sixth daughter. As the skipper he was always addressed as "Hely", and to his death Laura always called him just that — to the amusement of all who knew him. They married in 1928, celebrating their diamond wedding last year.

Hely died peacefully, following an accidental fall. He is survived by his wife Laura, two sons and two daughters.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JASPER WESTON-DAVIES

Lieutenant-Colonel Jasper Weston-Davies, author, died on April 7 aged 87. He was born on February 25, 1909.



WRITING under the nom de plume of Berkeley Mather, Jasper Weston-Davies scribbled such long-running television series of the 1950s and 1960s as *Tales From Soho*, *New Rumps for Old* and *As I Was Saying*. His central character, Inspector Charlesworth, played first by Stratford Johns and later by Wensley Pithey, was known to thousands of devoted viewers as he sleuthed his way through Soho. Weston-Davies was a master of his art, excelling in the dialogue of the barrack room and Soho pub. He also wrote radio dramas, film scripts — he had a hand in the first James Bond film *Dr No* — more than a hundred short stories and 15 novels, one of which, *The Gold of Malabar*, though first published in 1957, is soon to be filmed. Other novels included *The Achilles Heel*, *The Pass Beyond Kashmir*, *The Moon and the Sun*, *The White Dwarf*. These were mostly set in India and the Far East, where Weston-Davies had spent most of his life, and were packed with local colour.

Born in Gloucester, John Evan Weston-Davies was the youngest son of a family from North Wales. After an unhappy early childhood, of which he seldom spoke, he and his family moved to Australia. Two of his brothers were killed in the First World War, and after the death also of his father, the remaining family was looked after by the eldest brother, Wynne, who had established a successful advertising agency in Sydney. Weston-Davies was educated at the King's School, Paramatta.

After compulsory military service, he was enrolled to read medicine, the family profession, at Sydney University, but a wanderlust soon took over. He left Australia, travelling the world on cargo ships before reaching England during the Depression. There was little work for a penniless colonial with no qualifications other than the

ability to ride a horse. Weston-Davies, in desperation, enlisted in the ranks in the Royal Horse Artillery, and after basic training in Woodstock was posted to the Broken Wheel Troop at Larkhill. Later, after failing to gain a commission, he applied for a posting to the Indian Army.

He disembarked in Karachi in 1934 and spent the next 13 years in India and Burma. By the time of the outbreak of the Second World War, he was a sergeant in the Indian Army Ordnance Corps. He was among the first draft to be sent to Iraq with Pforce, under then Brigadier "Bill" Slim, and he remained with the 14th Corps and 14th Army for the rest of the war. By 1945 he was an acting lieutenant-colonel who had been mentioned in dispatches. He was one of the few Indian Army officers successfully to transfer to the British Army after Independence and he served until 1959 in the Royal Artillery.

Weston-Davies had always had an urge to write and had, in fact, published a number of short stories in the *Byzander* and other Indian publications before the war. He resumed writing after it and successfully sold to the BBC his first radio play, written with the aid of a do-it-yourself manual. As moonlighting was not officially permitted in the Army he used a pseudonym concocted from the names of the Berkeley Grill (the mis-spelt it) and Mather's, the chemist in Poona. After a final tour as commandant of the base at Limassol during the Cyprus troubles of the 1950s, he sent in

his papers and started his second career as a full-time writer.

His first venture into films came in 1960 when the first James Bond film *Dr No* was in preparation. Ian Fleming had vetoed script after script and at last he was asked to suggest a writer himself. Fleming had never met Mather, but had recently given a glowing review to his second book *The Pass Beyond Kashmir*, and he chose him.

Mather had at that time never read a Bond book, a habit which he did not subsequently break. He took Richard Maibaum's earlier script and, largely by rewriting the dialogue, transformed it from a serious spy thriller into a semi-spoor.

Fleming approved it but as the premiere approached the producers grew nervous. No one knew how the public would react to what amounted to a send-up. But the result was a triumph which set the tone for the highly successful series of films which followed. *Dr No*, however, is still regarded by aficionados as the best of the series. Unwisely, Mather refused a percentage deal and was paid a flat fee for the script.

Although he subsequently worked on both *Goldfinger* and *From Russia With Love* — in which he had a walk-on part the proudly maintained his Equity membership for the rest of his life — he was not happy adapting other people's work or using characters that he had not himself created. It was for this reason that he contributed only a few early scripts to *The Avengers* series and refused many invitations to collaborate in other popular television series of the time.

He wrote the original screenplay for *To Buy a Gun*, which featured one of the few television performances by Jack Hawkins. His was presented with a Special Merit award for services to television drama by the Crime Writers Association, of which he was at one time chairman.

Jasper Weston-Davies married in 1938 Kay Jones. She predeceased him in 1991. He is survived by their two sons, their daughter having died in infancy.

DR SIR WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, Bt

Dr Sir William Shakespeare, Bt, physician, died after heart surgery on March 12 aged 68. He was born on October 12, 1927.



BILL SHAKESPEARE'S small size was first seen by strangers with surprise and, perhaps, pity — he was achondroplastic. But it was as quickly disregarded by them as it had been by himself. His tiny physique was eclipsed by his presence. Intelligence, humour and kindness were reflected in his strong, handsome face.

William Geoffrey Shakespeare was, ironically, the son of the strikingly tall and good-looking Sir Geoffrey Shakespeare, the 1st Baronet. Liberal MP and wartime minister. When he was a small boy, friends wondered what sort of life he could expect. They need not have worried because Bill himself did not, or at least never appeared to.

Accepting his handicap, he pressed ahead into a full, active and happy life. He met the problem head-on: at Clare College, Cambridge, where he went after Radley, he read Natural Sciences before moving into medicine.

At St George's Hospital, London, he decided to specialise in paediatrics, partly because he felt his size might make him more acceptable to children as a doctor. He led a normal student life and became an enthusiast for rowing, coxing the St George's VIII, as he had that at Clare. At the hospital he met and fell in love with Sue Raffel, a tall and beautiful young woman who found his size an irrelevance, except in illuminating his determination. They announced their engagement on the 400th anniversary of the birth of his namesake, the playwright; they were married in 1963.

Shakespeare's medical career took him through several paediatric appointments in the St George's group, after which he moved to Canada and the United States, where he worked at the Boston Children's Hospital. More than a year as an assistant general practitioner in Barbados marked the end of his work abroad and he returned to settle in Aylesbury as a general practitioner in 1968.

When illness forced his early retirement in 1980, he continued part-time medical work in Buckinghamshire. Turning his own disability to practical advantage, he became national vice-president of the Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied Society in 1977 and of the Restricted Growth Association from 1982. He was a member of Lord Snowdon's working party into the integration of the handicapped from 1974 to 1976. He frequently visited his old school, talking to the boys about his work as a doctor.

The theatre and sport were two of his enthusiasms. He was appointed a trustee of the Shakespeare Globe Trust in 1992 and took part in the burial of a time capsule on the anniversary of Shakespeare's birthday in 1963. He was a member of the MCC, Henley Royal Regatta and the Leander Club. Holidays were often spent in northwest Norfolk, where he latterly owned a cottage in Nelson's village of Burnham Thorpe, and was a popular visitor to the village pub, named after the admiral.

It was an appropriate coincidence that, when he was taken ill early this year on board a ship in the North Sea, the RAF helicopter pilot who flew him ashore to hospital was the son of Norfolk friends. He appeared to make a good recovery after heart surgery but suffered a relapse and died. It was not only the handicapped who found his life an inspiration.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.

CARL STOKES

Carl Stokes, former Mayor of Cleveland, died of cancer in Cleveland, Ohio, on April 4 aged 68. He was born in the same city on June 21, 1927.



THE result of the 1967 mayoral election in Cleveland, Ohio, was scarcely believable. Carl Stokes, the great-grandson of a slave, had beaten Seth C. Taft, the grandson of a former American President. What is more, he had done so in a city whose population was two-thirds white. Although others were soon to follow in his wake, Stokes's achievement stood out as a landmark in the political emancipation of the black man in America.

His origins had been unpromising. Carl Burton Stokes, the son of a laundry worker, was raised by his mother in a public housing project for the poor (his father had died when he was two). He dropped out of high school in 1944 and worked briefly in a foundry before joining the US Army and serving for two years in Germany.

On demobilisation, Stokes went back to school and then to university as a psychology major. Again, he failed to stay the course and left college to become an enforcement agent with the Ohio State Department of Liquor Control, getting involved in several gun battles before deciding — after three years — that education might not be such a bad idea. This time he went to the University of Minnesota and

gained a law degree. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1957 and was appointed an assistant city prosecutor in Cleveland.

Handsome and charismatic, Stokes soon began to play a part in local politics. In 1962 he became the first black Democrat to be elected to the Ohio legislature, standing in a constituency which was 86 per cent white and serving three consecutive terms.

In 1965, with racial conflict even north of the Mason-Dixon Line never far below the surface, Stokes was given little chance when he ran for Mayor of Cleveland as an independent. However, he failed by a mere 2,500 votes. Rioting broke out in Cleveland the following year, sparked by rising poverty among blacks and resentment against a hostile white police force. Stokes, with the tacit support of Mar-

tin Luther King, who launched a voter registration drive, appealed for calm and announced that he would run again — this time as an official Democrat. He won the primary election over two white Democrats, and with the support of Cleveland's major newspapers went on to score a decisive victory over his Republican opponent, Taft.

In his two terms as Mayor, Stokes proved to be a moderate, bringing blacks into City Hall and doing his best to reorganise the police force and alleviate poverty in the city. He was praised for his handling of disturbances in 1968 when a police patrol was ambushed by armed black nationalists, resulting in the death of three policemen and six civilians. The incident, however, did much to damage his attempts to bring racial unity to Cleveland. "The aftermath of that night was to haunt and colour every aspect of my administration for the next three years," he wrote.

Stokes went on to become the first black anchorman of a New York television station in 1972, and from 1983 to 1994 was a municipal judge in Cleveland. He was appointed Ambassador to the Seychelles by President Clinton last year, but had to take leave of absence after being diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus.

Carl Stokes was twice married and divorced. He is survived by his third wife, Rajia, and by two sons and two daughters.

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HADRIAN'S WALL PROTESTS AGAINST QUARRY PLAN

The news that extensive quarrying is contemplated near the Roman Wall in Northumberland, to the detriment of the finest stretch of that great monument and of its characteristic setting, has been received with widespread surprise and indignation. The protests have followed promptly upon the announcement of the proposed enterprise in *The Times* yesterday, and there is general agreement that prompt action is necessary. This is by no means the only instance of a state of affairs which points to a need for new legislation. Early British earthworks and other monuments on the headland of Penmon-mawr are being blotted out by quarrying operations.

ON THIS DAY

April 12, 1930

Protests against the "barbarity" of quarrying near Hadrian's Wall continued to fill columns of the paper for many weeks.

Roman Wall, and to the leading article on the subject in the same paper. He said that a very extensive project had been launched for quarrying along the line of the best stretch of the Roman Wall just at the very point where the Wall itself was most interesting. The idea of the company which was to work the quarries was to turn out some hundreds of thousands of tons each year. It was quite true that they would probably not be able to knock down a bit of the Wall directly, because the Wall had been scheduled as an Ancient Monument, but they would under the present law be able to work up to within a very short space of the actual position of the Wall. That was a piece of the most unmitigated vandalism.

CANON RICHARDS, of Durham, moved:—That the Church Association, having heard of

[illegible]



ARTS 29-31
Promoter and critic
clash in the great
Bohème debate



EDUCATION 33
Have I got news
for you, says
Trevor McDonald



SPORT 34-40
Australians trying
to set new rules
for life in London

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
Pages 38, 39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY APRIL 12 1996

Debt trap eased by housing price rise

By KAREN ZAGOR

A STEADY rise in housing prices has helped to lift nearly 300,000 people out of negative equity in the first three months of this year, and there are signs that the housing market is continuing to improve, according to two reports released today.

Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at UBS Limited, said that there was a 22.7 per cent drop in households in negative equity to 964,000 in the first quarter, compared with the last quarter of 1995. This is not only the largest decline in three years, it is also the first time households in negative equity have fallen below 1 million since 1992. The number of households with insufficient equity to sell their home and buy another is still high, at 2.1 million.

Mr Thomas attributed the decline in negative equity largely to strong price gains that had benefited first-time buyers in East Anglia, the South West and Greater London, areas where the negative equity crisis was greatest.

Mr Thomas's analysis was based on figures from the Halifax Building Society's House Price Index for the first quarter of 1996. This showed a 1.2 per cent improvement, on a seasonally adjusted basis, in house prices in March. On an annual basis, prices were 1.7 per cent higher. House prices have now risen for eight months in succession.

Nine out of the 12 UK regions showed an improvement in prices in the first quarter, with the strongest gains in Northern Ireland, Greater London and Wales. In the East Midlands, however, prices fell 0.7 per cent in the three months and they also eased slightly in East Anglia. Prices in Scotland held steady.

The Halifax is still expecting a 2 per cent increase in prices for the full year, but will review its forecast if the steady improvement continues.

Pennington, page 23

BET rejects improved £2.1bn bid by Rentokil

By ERIC REGULY

BET, the business services company, yesterday rejected Rentokil's improved £2.1 billion takeover bid and predicted that it had a strong chance of thwarting the final offer.

However, institutional shareholders and City analysts said that the offer, increased from £1.9 billion, is probably sufficient to ensure success. One analyst said: "I would have thought that Rentokil has done enough to win the fight. BET has done very well to get this much out of Rentokil."

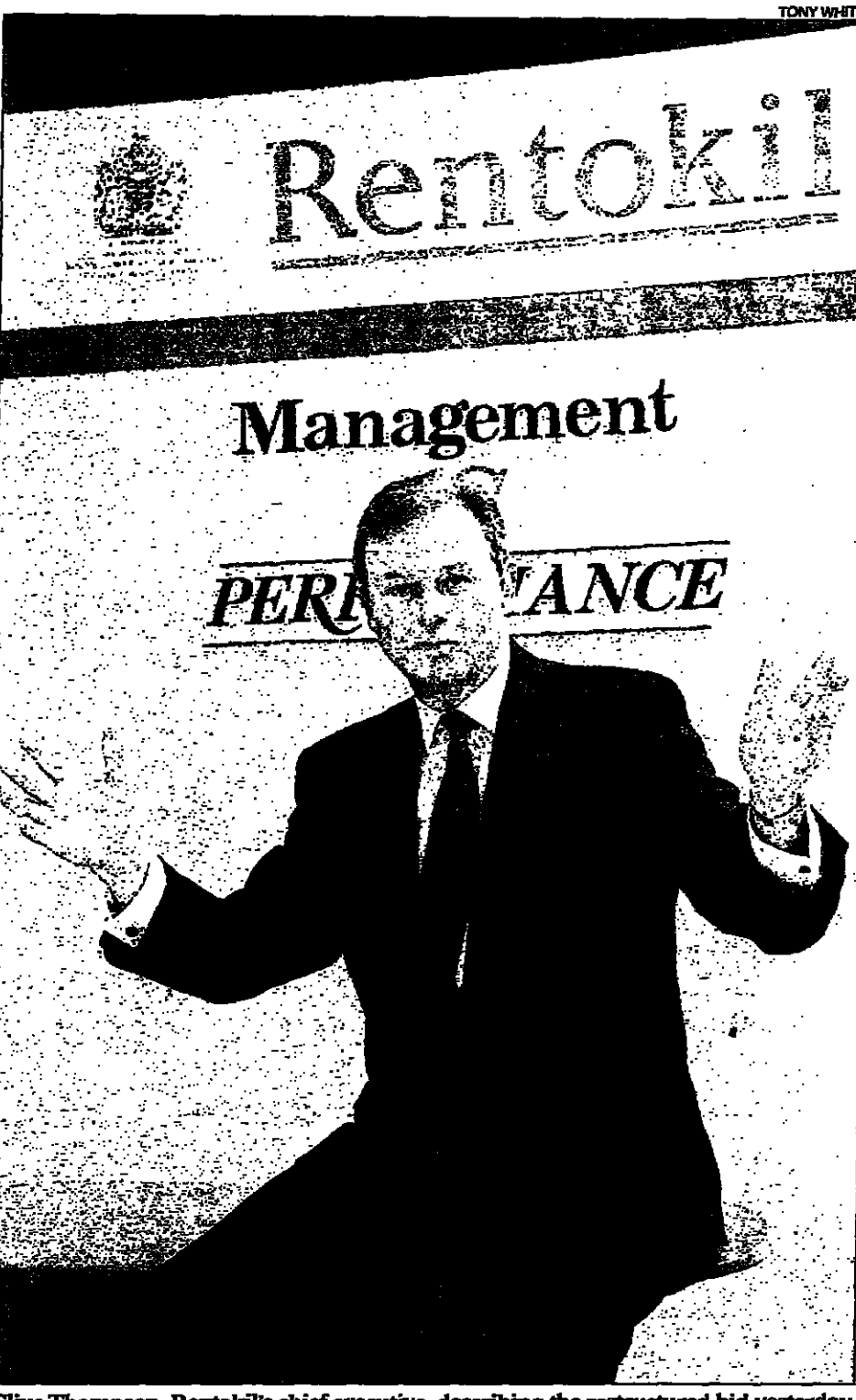
John Clark, BET's chief executive, said: "Their new bid is no knock-out punch. I think our chances are excellent and the fight has just begun. We are very confident of delivering greater value to our shareholders as an independent company."

Rentokil, which is majority-owned by Sophus Berendsen of Denmark, said the new offer valued each BET share at 217.4p against the opening offer of 190.1p. It consists of nine new Rentokil shares, £10 in cash and 80p in special dividends for every 20 BET shares. The previous offer was nine new Rentokil shares and £8 in cash. There is a cash alternative of 202.5p per share, up from 179.5p.

Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil, said: "We see this as a very full offer and, if anything, erring on the generous side."

BET argued that the new offer was mean. It noted that, excluding the special dividend, which works out to a net 4p per share, the bid is worth 209.8p, or only 1.1 per cent more than the closing price of BET shares on Wednesday.

BET shares rose less than 1p to 208.4p on volume of almost 40 million shares, while Rentokil lost 13p to 350p on the



Clive Thompson, Rentokil's chief executive, describing the restructured bid yesterday

UBS rejects merger talks

By PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

DIRECTORS of Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) last night voted unanimously to turn down the offer of merger talks with rival CS Holding.

In a two-hour meeting last night, Dr Nikolaus Senn, chairman of UBS board, told fellow directors of an approach from its opposite number at CS Holding, Rainer Gut, last week.

UBS said its board was "taken aback by CS Holding's action, the more so as the latter's chairman requested a decision in principle from UBS before the group's general meeting of shareholders on April 16, indicating that this could influence the meeting's outcome." This appears to contradict CS Holding's earlier statement denying that it planned to back Martin Ebner's BK Vision, the investment fund that is UBS's largest shareholder, which plans to oppose the nomination of Robert Studer, UBS executive, to succeed Dr Senn as chairman at the meeting.

Mr Ebner's opposition to the nomination of Mr Studer and other directors was prompted by his battle with the UBS board over the implementation of a scheme to unify the bank's share structure.

The UBS statement said: "Although a big bank merger could well bring potential benefits in some lines of business, these would far from compensate for the many negative aspects of a merger between UBS and CS Holding. It would also place a great strain on the group's financial and management resources, thereby impairing its current strength."

The UBS refusal to hold talks raises serious questions for CS Holding, parent of Credit Suisse. By going public over its wishes to hold merger talks, CS Holding has acknowledged the difficulties it faces in domestic and international investment banking.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FT-SE 100	2744.2 (-23.2)
Yield	3.96%
FT-SE All share	1866.45 (-7.80)
Nikkei	21694.45 (-87.27)
New York	
Dow Jones	5489.36 (-16.82)*
S&P Composite	629.96 (-3.54)*
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
Long Bond	88 1/2% (88 1/2%)
Yield	5.94% (5.94%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	6 1/4% (6%)
Life long gilt	104% (105 1/2%)
Future (Jun)	
STERLING	
New York	
\$	1.5128* (1.5135)
London	
£	1.5131 (1.5095)
DM	2.2713 (2.2674)
FF	7.7180 (7.7080)
Sfr	1.8408 (1.8397)
Yen	164.10 (164.05)
£ Index	83.6 (83.7)
DOLLAR	
London	
\$	1.5030* (1.4975)
DM	5.1050* (5.0930)
FF	1.2209* (1.2150)
Yen	102.47* (102.40)
\$ Index	95.7 (95.7)
Tokyo close Yen 108.45	
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$20.75 (\$20.05)
GOLD	
London close	\$368.25 (\$364.65)
* denotes midday trading price	

Payout

National & Provincial Building Society members stand to receive average bonuses of £1,000 each after voting overwhelmingly yesterday to approve the £1.3 billion takeover by Abbey National. Some N&P members with balances of £50,000 or more who are also borrowers, will receive £4,750. Page 22

Gold prospect

Ashanti Goldfields, the Ghanaian mining company whose major shareholder is Lonrho, has continued its recent buying spree with the £290 million acquisition of Golden Shamrock Mines in Australia. Page 26, Trampus 24

Bank of Ireland tipped for B&W

By ROBERT MILLER

THE Bank of Ireland has emerged as clear favourite to announce a takeover of Bristol & West, the UK's ninth-largest building society, on Monday morning.

Bristol & West, which has assets of £9 billion and more than one million savers and borrowers who would be likely to receive average bonus payouts of between £750 and £1,000, yesterday declined to comment on speculation about its future.

The society announced that it was freezing new share accounts with immediate effect because of long queues of speculators at its branches hoping to cash in on takeover plans at the last minute.

Bank of Ireland has assets of nearly £20 billion and 27 branches in the UK, including ones in Cardiff, Glasgow, London, Manchester and Liverpool. The bank, Ireland's second largest, has made no

Worries depress shares

By PHILIP PANGALOS

POLITICAL worries ahead of the Staffordshire South East by-election and Wall Street's latest slide combined to depress shares in London yesterday.

Against the background of a near 200-point, three-session slide in New York, the FT-SE 100 index remained in negative territory all day. A partial recovery, after a positive start on Wall Street, was short-lived in volatile US trading. Suggestions that the US Federal Reserve was worried about inflation upset the Treasury market. The FT-SE 100 ended at 2,744.2, down 23.2 points.

A variety of bid speculation, hostile bid developments and broker recommendations helped Seaq volume swell to a healthy 889 million shares in after-hours trading. Stock market, page 24

Soros gives his blessing to Blair

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

GEORGE SOROS, the powerful Wall Street investor who helped to force Britain out of the European exchange-rate mechanism, has come out in support of Tony Blair after meeting him in New York.

After a private meeting with Mr Blair, Mr Soros said that the Labour leader was "very refreshing". Praising Mr Blair's pro-European stance, he said that a Labour election victory would not "influence a scare in international investors".

Bankers and investment managers who met Mr Blair at the Wall Street offices of Barclays de Zoete Wedd said that he had presented policies that US investors in Britain would favour.

"If I were British, I would vote for him in a nanosecond," said one of those who attended a meeting with him. "He has the whole package. He is enormously intelligent and has an absolutely coherent set

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Alvis forges link to bid for 'battlefield taxi'



The Scorpion tank has helped to build Alvis's reputation

By ROSS TIEMAN AND PHILIP PANGALOS

ALVIS, which builds the Army's Scorpion and Stormer light tanks, has teamed up with Vickers and Thyssen-Henschel, of Germany, to bid for a £4 billion contract to build a new 'battlefield taxi' for the armies of Britain, France and Germany.

Under a deal to be announced in the next few days, Vickers would build the main production run of personnel carriers. Alvis, Britain's leading specialist in light armoured vehicles, is expected to make specialist variants for the British Army.

Nick Prest, Alvis chairman, said Alvis's share in the programme would be significant. The collaboration is part of a wide-ranging shake-up in the European armoured vehicles industry stemming from Britain's decision to make the battlefield taxi, known to the Ministry of Defence as MRAP, the first common procurement of the European Arms Agency.

GKN, which builds the Warrior personnel carrier, has teamed up with three German partners, Krauss-Maffei, MaK and Wegmann. The winner of the bid to supply some 8,000 light, wheeled personnel carriers is then expected to team with Giat, the French tank-builder.

The deal is a breakthrough for Alvis. Despite its expertise, it had failed to secure a German partner to mount an independent bid.

Stock Market, page 24

Sparkling debut for Cliveden

Cliveden, the luxury hotel operator, run at the former home of the Astor family, enjoyed a sparkling stock market debut. The shares ended their first day's trading with a 12p rise to 85p, against a 73p placing price. Volume amounted to 6.33 million shares traded. The hotel and country club business made profits of £1.86 million last year, on turnover of £6.4 million, with trading understood to be ahead this year. Cliveden, which has Viscount Astor as a non-executive director, was the home to Nancy Astor, the first woman MP and renowned hostess, from her marriage in 1905 into the Astor family.

Toys range extended

Toys and Company, maker of military uniforms, insignia and other regalia, is diversifying. A new range of enamelled boxes, cufflinks and ties is being offered to menswear shops and other retailers. In the year to December 31, the company returned to profit, making £264,538 before tax on sales up £1.1 million to £9.7 million compared with a loss during 1994 of £180,744. The directors are recommending a dividend of 4p a share.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buyers	Bank Sellers
Australia \$	2.01	1.85
Austria Sch	16.96	15.46
Belgium Fr	49.80	45.30
Canada \$	2.157	1.997
Cyprus Cyp	0.784	0.863
Denmark Kr	9.37	8.57
Finland MkP	7.06	7.01
France Fr	8.13	7.48
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	387.00	362.00
Hong Kong \$	12.33	11.33
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	4.100	4.620
Italy Lira	2481.00	2326.00
Japan Yen	178.90	162.50
Norway Kr	9.221	8.336
Netherlands Gld	2.697	2.457
New Zealand \$	2.37	2.15
Poland Zl	10.40	9.80
Portugal Esc	244.09	225.50
S. Africa Rd	8.77	5.97
Spain Pta	167.00	162.00
Sweden Kr	10.80	10.00
Switzerland Fr	1.97	1.79
Taiwan Nts	114.16	105.16
USA \$	1.609	1.473

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Society function: Lord Shuttleworth, the N&P chairman, centre, facing hostile questioning during yesterday's special meeting in Manchester

N&P members give sweeping support to Abbey takeover

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE 1.4 million qualifying members of the National & Provincial Building Society yesterday voted overwhelmingly to approve the £1.3 billion takeover by Abbey National.

Members now stand to receive average bonuses of £1,000 each. Some members with balances of £50,000 or more who are also borrowers, will receive £4,751.

At a special meeting of N&P

members in Manchester, 96 per cent of savers who voted favoured the takeover. For the takeover to succeed, 75 per cent of eligible savers had to vote "yes". A majority of borrowers were also in favour.

Before the vote was announced, Lord Shuttleworth, the N&P chairman, and Alistair Lyons, chief executive, faced a hostile reception from the 490-strong audience at the Nynex Centre. Some members

attacked the N&P board for failing to achieve a better price.

One investor accused the board of "bribing members with their own money" and said a membership "swelled by carpetbaggers" had been "asked to dispose of community assets and of a valuable inheritance". He asked: "Where do we stop this disposal of our heritage?" Other members called for

details of any "golden handshakes" the board would receive from Abbey National. Lord Shuttleworth denied this would happen.

Michael Hardem, of the campaign group Members for Conversion, who has campaigned for societies to convert to banks, congratulated the N&P but then claimed members were being robbed. N&P should have held out for £2 billion. He predicted: "In a

year's time we may find we have sold out for a song."

Many members paid tribute to N&P's branch staff. Lord Shuttleworth promised there would be no compulsory redundancies but an estimated 130 branches will be closed after the takeover.

The takeover must now be approved by the Building Societies Commission at a hearing on June 3. If it is confirmed, it will go ahead on August 5 and members will receive bonus payments at the beginning of September.

Savers who have had a share account with the society for less than two years will receive £500 in Abbey National shares. To qualify they must have had a share account with a balance of more than £100 between April 28, 1995, the date the takeover was announced, and December 31, 1995, the qualifying date.

Borrowers will get a fixed distribution of £500. Savers of more than two years' standing will get a payout of £750, which they can take in Abbey shares or cash. On top of this, they will get a bonus of 7 per cent of the balance of their account. The maximum eligible balance is £50,000.

Opraf deputy tipped to take over

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAIL industry insiders yesterday tipped Chris Stokes, the deputy head of the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (Opraf), to succeed Roger Salmon, who resigned on Wednesday.

Although the Department of Transport appointed headhunters yesterday to find candidates for the £130,000-a-year job, there are expected to be few outside takers to what is being seen as a poisoned chalice.

Mr Stokes, 48, a lifelong

railwayman, has been working with Mr Salmon, who is leaving two years ahead of schedule, since the early days of Opraf and has won many plaudits for his work behind the scenes. He is seen as a safe pair of hands who has the advantage of detailed knowledge of how the highly complex franchising process works. He has also taken an increasingly public role in recent months, for example representing Opraf at the court cases that almost

scuppered privatisation before Christmas.

Roger Ford, editor of *Rail Privatisation News*, said: "He is a really good apparatchik who knows all the levers and can do the job. Chris will be good at nailing down all the details of franchising and there simply won't be time for someone new to play themselves in."

Mr Stokes joined British Rail in the late 1960s as a trainee and has since worked in a variety of jobs on the

railways, including stints at InterCity, London Midland and Network SouthEast, where he was deputy managing director. He was the first manager at Birmingham International station.

Mr Stokes also has the presentational advantage of catching the train to work from his home in Leighton Buzzard, in contrast to Mr Salmon, who embarrassed the Government when it was revealed that he is chauffeur-driven to the office each day.

Railtrack loyalists get £120 cut

By OUR TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

INVESTORS in the £1.8 billion Railtrack flotation next month will receive discounts on their second payments of up to £120 if they retain their shares for more than a year.

City advisers to the float said yesterday that the incentive terms will give a first-year return on Railtrack shares of up to 17 per cent, against interest rates of about 4 per cent in high street building societies.

The yield on the shares, which small investors can pay for in two roughly equal instalments, is expected to be about 7 per cent. Small investors will also be entitled to an initial discount, compared with institutional shareholders, of about 3 per cent.

Investors who register with share shops before May will also be entitled to a 15p discount on their second instalments, which will must be paid next spring. The offer applies only to the first 800 shares bought. Alternatively, there is a one-for-15 bonus share offer for up to 1,200 shares held until 31 May, 1997.

Pennington, page 23

Sega moves into gaming machines

By PAUL DURMAN

SEGA, the Japanese electronic games company, is expanding its European business into the fruit machines market with the acquisition of JPM Group.

JPM, which includes JPM International and Ace Coin Equipment, says it is the UK's leading manufacturer of gaming machines. Relaxed regulations and new export opportunities have led to "rocketing" sales and profits, it said.

The price paid to Games Network, JPM's Birmingham-based owner, was not disclosed. JPM's sales in the year to September 30 were £43 million. Annual sales have risen to more than £50 million.

Although in Europe Sega is known for its home electronics games, its origins in Japan lie in coin-operated gaming machines. Sega said the purchase of JPM fitted with its ambition to be the world's biggest company in electronic entertainment. The JPM companies will trade autonomously within Sega.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Chinese warm to Euro aerospace

THE European consortium bidding against Boeing of America to partner China and South Korea in the development of a 100-seat passenger jet has taken heart from a big improvement in relations between China and France. France and China yesterday signed an undertaking to collaborate. The Chinese noted their "hope that the Europeans will win the contract".

British Aerospace is an equal partner, with Aerospaciale of France and Alenia of Italy, in the AIR regional aircraft marketing consortium negotiating to provide technical assistance in exchange for a stake in the programme. Under AIR proposals, the Asian Express 100 would share a common cockpit with the A320 twin-jet built by the European Airbus Industrie consortium in which BAE is also a member. If AIR is chosen, China would almost certainly be invited to participate in development of a super-jumbo by Airbus Industrie.

Schneider advances

SCHNEIDER, the French electrical equipment and construction group that completed a wide-ranging restructuring effort last year, reported a sharp rise in annual earnings yesterday. The company said that net profits last year were FF811 million, up 20.3 per cent from the previous year, while sales amounted to FF59.4 billion, up 6.2 per cent. The revamped group is now based on two businesses: Schneider Electric (electricity distribution), and Spie-Batignolles (construction and electrical installations).

EBRD to Bulgaria

BULGARIA, eastern Europe's economic laggard, is dusting down the red carpet to welcome thousands of top bankers and politicians to a key financial gathering this weekend. The country is hosting the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). About 4,000 delegates from more than 50 countries will descend on Sofia for the two-day meeting of the EBRD's governors that starts on Monday. It is preceded by a weekend packed with seminars, workshops and country presentations.

Record for grain

GRAIN prices soared to all time highs yesterday on worries that dry weather may damage US harvests and an official prediction that America's stocks of wheat are set to drop lower than at any time since 1948. The Department of Agriculture projected that end-season wheat stocks would fall to 305 million bushels, down 41 million from a forecast made in March. It also expected lower maize stocks. The estimates fuelled a raging bull market that has lifted grain futures to contract and historic highs.

GPA incurs \$9m loss

GPA GROUP, the Irish aircraft leasing company, reported a net loss of \$9 million in the three months to December 31 and said it had included a \$23 million exceptional charge for the securitisation deal that last month dragged it back from the brink of collapse. In the same quarter of 1994 it lost \$11 million after exceptional costs of \$15 million. GPA, which fell heavily into debt after an over-ambitious expansion and came close to collapse, raised \$4 billion last month through a bond issue which used its aeroplanes as security.

Local link for ATT

ATT, the world's largest telecommunications group, has reached agreement with five companies, including Time Warner, to provide service to business customers in 70 cities. ATT is authorised to enter local telephone markets under terms of recent landmark legislation signed by President Clinton in February. Local networks, which had previously been reserved for regional communications companies, known as Baby Bells, represent a market with annual sales of more than \$100 billion.

Warner-Lambert hope

WARNER-LAMBERT, the US pharmaceuticals company, expects earnings from ongoing operations to rise 5 per cent in the first quarter of the current year, after reporting earnings of \$1.50 a share in the first three months last time. Melvin Goodes, chief executive, expected sales growth in "double digits" and profit growth in the "mid-teens", on average, up to 2000. Mr Goodes said Warner-Lambert had signed a letter of intent for a marketing agreement with Pfizer to co-promote its cholesterol-lowering drug Atorvastatin.

US producer prices up

AMERICAN producer prices rose by 0.5 per cent in March compared with a 0.2 per cent decline in February, the Labour Department said. But stripping out the volatile food and energy components, prices rose by only 0.1 per cent, the same as in February. Wall Street had expected overall producer prices to rise by 0.4 per cent. The Labour Department also reported that the number of Americans filing for state jobless benefits fell 59,000 to 347,000 in the latest week, a lower figure than analysts had expected.

France cuts rate

THE Bank of France cut its key intervention rate yesterday to 3.70 per cent from 3.80 per cent, the fifth cut in the rate this year. The central bank left its five-to-ten-day emergency lending rate unchanged at 5.50 per cent. The lowering of the intervention rate was too small a move to boost French shares. The CAC-40 index closed down 11.00 at 2,082.94. Lower rates were expected yesterday, given the strength of the franc against the mark which some said argued for a more aggressive rate cut.

Destiny decision, page 25

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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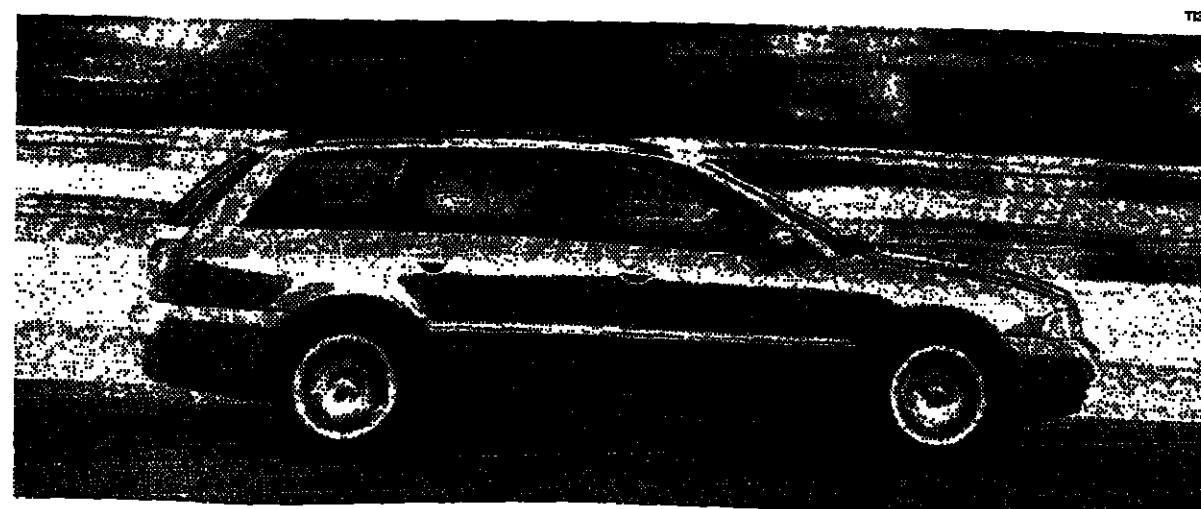


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□ Society speculators are the reluctant heroes □ Will Coleman cut the mustard? □ Cheap and dear directors

Bagging the windfalls

□ BANKING history is being rewritten. Never before, surely, have so many deposit-takers had to close their doors because to stop a run of money coming in. According to Adrian Coles, director general of the Building Societies Association "It is quite wrong for genuine customers to be inconvenienced by people seeking to make a quick buck". Sadly, the directors of most building societies seem unlikely to heed his words. They will go on trying to take their homely institutions into the corporate big-time, along with their pay. Savers, who have not done well in recent years, are now accused of being "carpet-baggers" if they spread their money around the remaining societies in the hope of earning windfalls of cash or shares to make up for the depredations of falling interest rates. But they are being sensible. It might be financial stupidity, but it would be a sensible tactic. Even if they guess wrong, they earn the normal return on their deposits. Indeed, these patient investors, now derided as cheap speculators, provide a vital oil to lubricate the ambitions of the boards of societies and their would-be new owners. Without them, boards might not earn the large majority votes they need under building society rules to convert or transfer. It is the

traditional saver and borrower who tends to object, only to be trampled in the dash for cash. The queues are inconvenient for small savers going about their business. And there should be some sympathy for small societies that have actually continued to try to fulfil the role of a non-profit mutual organisation. But most big societies have long abandoned such an approach in their desire for growth, maximum profit margins and a profit performance superior to their peers. Mutuality is a state of mind. If managers do not operate in that spirit, then mutuality has no value. If profits are being maximised, then members might as well lay their hands on the capital and the dividends that profit-maximising operators should pay. They are only getting cash, however, because managers found that, otherwise, they could no longer meet their ambition for mergers and growth. Building societies originally grew and prospered, however, because they could offer something better to savers than did the banks, and offered bor-

rowers a more understanding service that kept bad debts and interest rates down. Belatedly, a few of the bigger societies are returning to those roots. But it is not clear yet whether that is a change of heart or a short-term tactic to boost market share at the expense of margins while the housing market is thin. Thanks to the cash windfall, most societies will turn the way their boards want. Once the false mutuals have gone, however, the remainder will probably repeat history, offering a better deal to savers and borrowers. From a low base, they should once again outgrow their big, shiny rivals.

Sir Ralph haunts House of Fraser

□ THE strange tale of House of Fraser, the store empire that Mohamed Al Fayed sold, minus Harrods, its jewel, took another twist yesterday. Brian McGowan, chairman of the Dickens & Jones, Army & Navy and DH Evans enterprise, ushered in a new chief executive. Enter John Coleman, the former managing



director of Texas Homecare. A bit of chainsaw experience always comes in handy, although, to a casual observer, not necessarily at Dickens & Jones. A closer perusal of Mr Coleman's pedigree reveals that, prior to his two-year stint at Texas Homecare, he spent a decade at Burton Group, initially as deputy finance director and later as managing director of such outlets as Top Shop, Top Man and Dorothy Perkins.

Mr McGowan said all the things that chairman say at such times. He pointed out that Mr Coleman has an "extremely strong" track record and emphasised that he will provide the "precise blend of retail and management skills" required.

Mr Coleman spoke in a similar vein. He was "extremely pleased" to have been offered "one of the most exciting and prestigious roles" in UK retailing.

Alas, the City was not impressed. Tales had been rife that PDP, House of Fraser's largest shareholder with a 26 per cent stake, wanted a "big hitter" to join House of Fraser's board. David Dworkin, the American retail specialist who picked up £3 million from a short but successful sojourn at Storehouse, was reputed to be PDP's first choice. If not as successor to Coleman's predecessor Andrew Jennings — fired by McGowan early last month — then as successor to McGowan himself. As House of Fraser's shares fell 14p to 175p, McGowan, defending Coleman's appointment, declared: "John had years at Burton where he was at Ralph Halpern's elbow. What better retail training could there be than that?" Sir Ralph undoubtedly possessed many skills but the City is hardly crying out for an enore of the Burton saga of the Eighties. Meanwhile,

House of Fraser's shares, 5p off their 1994 flotation price, would appear to be as overvalued now as they were then.

Can pay, will pay

□ HOW much do shareholders need to pay directors? Big investors will surely ask this more often as, one by one, the better companies convert to Greenbury rules and proudly display their directors' emoluments. Recent reports offer illuminating contrasts. At Cookson, the improving materials group, board pay totalled £5.9 million last year, not counting share options. That was 11 per cent of shareholders' dividends, which looks pricey. Admittedly, the total was swelled by a side-effect of the Cadbury and Greenbury codes that their authors did not anticipate. Ray Sharpe, Cookson's number two in America, was paid £305,000 one-off compensation because his three-year notice period had to be cut when he joined the group board. Even so, Cookson directors are leaders in

the portly moggy stakes. Richard Oster, chief executive, got £1.7 million and most executive directors are Americans, paid on "levels prevailing in the USA".

At British Aerospace, whose operations are roughly double the size of Cookson's, and whose market value is about two thirds bigger, the board rates about £2.6 million in all. Both these boards of directors have delivered strong recoveries from financial and management crises in the early 1990s, along with share price growth above the average. In BAE's case, however, much of the hard graft was done by the late John Cahill. Cookson now has the better reputation.

At T&N, the motor components and former asbestos group, sales and profits are similar to Cookson's, but the directors are paid only £1.8 million. T&N is worth less than half as much as Cookson and its shares have performed badly. This was, however, not due to hiring cheap directors. It reflects the incidence of claims for harm from asbestos, pre-dating today's board. Ignoring asbestos charges, T&N profits have grown as strongly as Cookson's. You could say the group is harder to manage with the asbestos albatross round its neck and unpredictable cash flow. But justice and hard work never did have much to do with pay.

BP promises bigger dividends

BP EXPECTS to increase its post-tax profit by \$1.5 billion over the next five years (Carl Mortished writes). The oil company told its shareholders that earnings would grow at the rate of 8 per cent a year over the period and promised them increased dividends.

John Browne, chief executive, told the annual meeting that BP aimed to pay out half of its underlying earnings in dividends every year. Mr Browne emphasised that the targets were not based on changes in prices or margins. "We work on the basis of projects we now have. And we are also cautious about our ability to improve capital efficiency."

The company reckons that it can replace production from its existing projects over the next ten years with the rate of production increasing 4 to 5 per cent a year.

Tempus, page 23

New Amec chief looks for overseas partners

By PAUL DURMAN

THE new chief executive of Amec, the engineering and construction group that recently escaped a £360 million takeover bid from Kvaerner, wants to strengthen its international business through strategic partnerships.

Peter Mason, who joined Amec ten weeks ago, believes that the group has not made enough of its design and project management skills in international markets. He blamed this partly on weak marketing and partly on the group's operating structure, which he is subjecting to a strategic review.

Mr Mason highlighted the Amec-led joint venture to build Hong Kong's new airport terminal building as an example of projects the

group should be seeking. Amec's involvement in the £800 million contract has included Watson Steel's design of the terminal's steel roof, and the supply of all site plant and equipment.

Mr Mason envisages Amec providing the more profitable skills and technology, while its local partners supply labour and political nous.

Amec was reporting annual pre-tax profits of £15.9 million, broadly in line with the forecasts made during its defence of the bid from Kvaerner, the Norwegian ship-building to engineering group. Without bid defence costs of £4.1 million, Amec would have matched the £20 million it made in 1994.

Sir Alan Cockshaw, the

chairman of Amec, yesterday gave up his executive responsibilities. He said that underlying operating profits were up 39 per cent at £40.9 per cent. However, settling the dispute over the Tiffany North Sea oil platform cost the company £8.1 million.

Mr Mason said Amec had decided to retain Fairclough Homes, the housebuilder, because a sale would not produce a sufficiently good price at a time when the housing market was improving.

Fairclough made a £2.6 million profit after a £2.8 million loss in 1994. The construction division lifted profits from £5.7 million to £11.9 million, while the mechanical and electrical divi-

sion improved its contribution from £12.9 million to £19.5 million.

Kvaerner retains a 26 per cent stake in Amec, bought for £50 million. Erik Tonseth, Kvaerner's chief executive, said the Norwegian group would be happy to place its holding; after its acquisition of rival construction group Trafalgar House, just completed, "the Amec shares have no strategic interest for us".

Amec said the outlook for 1996 remains encouraging, and it expects much better profits this year. Analysts at Merrill Lynch are forecasting £34 million. Amec is paying a 1.5p final dividend to make a total of 3p.

Tempus, page 23



John Coleman, House of Fraser's new head

House of Fraser shares fall as chief is chosen

HOUSE OF FRASER, the struggling department store group, has managed to fill the void left vacant by last month's sudden departure of its managing director. The Dickens & Jones and Army & Navy group has appointed John Coleman, a former Texas Homecare managing director, as chief executive (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The news received a lacklustre reception in the City, and the shares slumped 14p to 175p, below the 180p flotation price in March 1994. In recent months, the shares have risen sharply on bid speculation.

The announcement comes a week before HoF is expected to unveil a sharp drop in pre-tax profits from £28 million to £15 million in the year to January 30. The group forecast a decline in profits in January, in its fourth profit warning since flotation two years ago.

In March, Andrew Jennings resigned as managing director amid shareholder dissatisfaction over the group's performance. Mr Coleman, 43, left Texas Homecare last year after Ladbroke sold the DIY chain to Sainsbury. He has also spent ten years with Burton Group. Pennington, this page

ELECTRICITY NOTICE BRITISH GAS TRADING LTD SCHEDULE 2

Regulations 3(2) and 4(2)

PART 1

Form Of Application For A Private Electricity Supply Licence or Extension.

1. Full name of applicant: British Gas Trading Limited.
2. Address of the applicant or, in the case of a body corporate, the registered or principal office:
Rivermill House, 152 Grosvenor Road, London, SW1V 3JL.
3. Where the applicant is a Company, the full names of the current Directors and the Company's registered number:
Roy Alan Gardner
Michael Richard Alexander
Graham John Bartlett
Company number: 3078711

4. Where a holding of 20 per cent or more of the shares (see Note 1) of an applicant is held by a body corporate or partnership or an unincorporated association carrying on a trade or business with or without a view to profit, the name(s) and address(es) of the holder(s) of such shares shall be provided:
British Gas Trading Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of British Gas plc of the same registered office address.

5. Desired date from which licence is to take effect:
1st May 1996.

6. A sufficient description adequately specifying (see Note 2) the nature and situation of the premises intended to be supplied, separately identifying premises within the power bands specified in and to the extent provided by paragraph 7 below:

Any non-domestic premises with a maximum demand above 100kW in the authorised areas of the following Public Electricity Supply Companies: Eastern Group plc, East Midlands Electricity plc, London Electricity plc, Manweb plc, Midlands Electricity plc, Northern Electric plc, NORWEB plc, SEEBORDE plc, Southern Electricity plc, South Wales Electricity plc, South West Electricity plc, Yorkshire Electricity Group plc, Scottish Power plc, and Scottish Hydro-Electric plc.

7. (a) Subject to sub-paragraph (b) indicate the total number of premises intended to be supplied in each power band as shown in the table below, together with the aggregate energy forecast to be supplied and the aggregate estimated maximum demand (see Note 3) for each power band.
(b) If the date in paragraph 5 above is on or after 1st April 1994 then only Power Band A shall be completed and if the said date is on or after 1st April 1996 then this paragraph shall cease to have effect:

Power Band	Aggregate Number of Premises	Energy Maximum demand (GWh)	(GWh) to be supplied
(A) Not exceeding 0.1 MW	none	none	none
(B) Exceeding 0.1 MW but not exceeding 1.0 MW	N/A	N/A	N/A

8. A description of the system of electric lines and electrical plant by means of which the applicant intends to supply electricity, indicating which plant and lines are to be constructed and which are existing plant and lines, and further identifying any parts of that system which will not be owned or otherwise in the possession or control of the applicant:

Supplies are intended to be provided by means of the transmission systems and distribution systems owned by: The National Grid Company plc, Eastern Group plc, East Midlands Electricity plc, London Electricity plc, Manweb plc, Midlands Electricity plc, Northern Electric plc, NORWEB plc, SEEBORDE plc, Southern Electricity plc, South Wales Electricity plc, South West Electricity plc, Yorkshire Electricity Group plc, Scottish Power plc, and Scottish Hydro-Electric plc. The applicant, at this moment in time, does not propose to own any electric lines — but wishes to reserve the right to do so.

9. A statement of the extent (if any) to which the applicant considers it necessary for powers under Schedule 3 (compulsory acquisition of land etc.) and under Schedule 4 (other powers etc.) to the Act to be given through the licence for which he is applying:

To be able to facilitate the supply of electricity to the customer types outlined in Paragraph 6 the applicant considers it necessary for powers under Schedule 3 (compulsory acquisition of land etc.) and under Schedule 4 (other powers etc.) to the Act to be given through the licence.

10. Details of any licences held, applied for or being applied for by the applicant in respect of the generation, transmission or supply of electricity:

None.

Note 1

Reference to shares:

- (a) in relation to an applicant with a share capital are allotted shares;
- (b) in relation to an applicant with capital but no share capital, are to rights to share in the capital of the applicant;
- (c) in relation to an applicant without capital, are to interest:
(i) conferring any right to share in the profits or liability to contribute to the losses of the applicant; or
(ii) giving rise to an obligation to contribute to the debts or expenses of the applicant in the event of a winding up.

Note 2

The description should enable the areas, location or premises concerned to be adequately and readily identified, by map if the applicant so desires or by any other convenient means. The following examples of descriptions that might be used are not exhaustive and are by way of illustration only: the area or premises might be identified by the name of the customers and/or postal address of the premises to be supplied; described by reference to a named street or road, town, city, village, parish, county or other accepted boundary, such as a Local Authority Area; or described by reference to certain other characteristics such as the type of premises or the maximum electrical demand to be met at those premises.

Note 3

- (a) For premises already receiving electricity for a period in excess of 12 Months, whether from the applicant or anyone else, maximum demand shall be calculated as the average of the three highest monthly maximum demands in the preceding 12 Months; or

- (b) For premises not already receiving electricity, maximum demand shall be calculated as the average of the three highest monthly maximum demands which might reasonably be expected by the applicant to be supplied in the first 12 months of supply.

In compliance with the Electricity (Applications for Licences and Extensions of Licences) Regulations 1990, maps relevant to the above application are lodged with the regional offices of the Office of Electricity Regulation and are available for inspection by the public between 10:00 and 16:00 on any working day.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Montigny, 12 April 1996

Rather than let rumours develop regarding the offers made to the Société Civile des Salariés (SCS) regarding the purchase of its shareholding in Financière Eurest, Sodexho clarifies its position as follows:

1
The management buy-out of EUREST France that was put in place in 1991 has been supported by SODEXHO SA, holding 33.34% of the share capital of Financière Eurest; Wagons-Lits, holding 33.3% of the shares; the management and associates owning 33.2% of the shares (but 57.88% of the voting rights); and by the venture capital fund, Epargne Développement, with 0.16% of the equity.

2
SODEXHO contested the sale in 1995 by Wagons-Lits to Compass of its 33.3% of the capital in Financière Eurest, notably in the context of the agreements made at the time of the management buy-out in 1991. SODEXHO has recently taken legal action against Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits in this respect. As a result, SODEXHO considers that the Board of Financière Eurest must reject in accordance with statutory authorisation procedures the offer made by Compass to purchase SCS's shareholding in Financière Eurest.

3
More than 5 years ago, SODEXHO decided not to make any alliance without the full support of its partner's existing management. Hence, over the last 9 months, SODEXHO management has held discussions with SCS management and together they have developed a solution which guarantees management independence and autonomy for the EUREST France business, thereby ensuring the perfect continuity of the current situation.

4
SODEXHO has offered a consideration of up to FF 694 million for the SCS's shareholding, dependant upon the future performance of EUREST France, but subject to a minimum payment of FF 592 million. This consideration is interest bearing at the average monthly money market rate (T4M) with effect from 1 April 1996.

5
SODEXHO has also provided to the SCS a bank guarantee of FF 694 million (value date 1 April 1996) as surety of its intent to purchase in due course the SCS's interest in Financière Eurest. The SCS has made it known that certain of its own shareholders (both Eurest France managers and others) wish to sell their stakes immediately; to this end SODEXHO is ready to make an advance to the SCS on the consideration payable in due course for the acquisition of the latter's shareholding in Financière Eurest.

For further information, please contact:

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Ashanti continues expansion with Australian miner

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS, the Ghanaian mining company in which Lonrho holds a large stake, has continued its buying spree with the acquisition of Australian-listed Golden Shamrock Mines for £290 million.

It is Ashanti's third acquisition since December and the largest so far. It underlines the determination of the company, which is in the sights of Anglo American Corporation, to remain independent.

GSM's most important asset is its 70 per cent holding in the the Siguri

goldmine in Guinea, where a feasibility study, published last month, identified 2.37 million ounces of gold. The company, which is also listed in Toronto, also has a 70 per cent share in the Iduapriem goldmine in Ghana.

Ashanti last week made a £65 million agreed offer for International Gold Resources of Toronto. In December it bought Cluff Resources, the London-listed gold company with operations in Africa, for £80 million.

The latest deal is being arranged as a share-swap

merger. GSM shareholders will receive one Ashanti ordinary share for every 22.5 GSM shares, which are valued at Aus\$1.37 (70p). GSM's board supports the merger which Australian courts will have to clear and which its shareholders will then vote on.

Ashanti intends to integrate GSM's West African assets into its own operations. GSM's Australian assets — a coppermine and gold and silver exploration interests — will be sold off.

Analysts welcomed the deal and said that the price was in line with Ashanti's other acquisitions.

Ashanti's advisers said that the GSM had been high on its "shopping list" and that the results of the Siguri feasibility study had prompted the offer. Analysts said that Ashanti's rapid expansion could make it appear less digestible and discourage the attentions of South Africa's Anglo American Corporation.

The South African company recently acquired 6 per cent of Lonrho, which owns 37 per cent of Ashanti, from Dieter Bock, Lonrho's chief executive. Mr Bock is to demerge the group's mining interests. Anglo American has first right of refusal on Mr Bock's remaining 18 per cent of Lonrho.

Tempus, page 24

MAM bids £93m for healthcare group

BY ERIC REGULY

THE private equity arm of Mercury Asset Management (MAM) yesterday offered to buy Priory Hospitals Group, Britain's largest private-sector provider of psychiatric services, for £93 million in cash. It is Mercury's first foray into the healthcare field.

Community Psychiatric Centers of America, Priory's owner, said other potential buyers would not be excluded

as negotiations with Mercury got underway. Founded in 1980, Priory has 15 hospitals and adolescent residential units, with about 700 beds. The company is profitable, though no financial details were available.

Mercury wants to buy Priory because it is the market leader and has strong growth prospects. It plans to float the company within five years.



Tony Wardell watches as a model applies products that Swallowfield hopes to market under its own brand name

Swallowfield buoyed by exports

BY MARTIN BARROW

SWALLOWFIELD, the contract manufacturer of branded and private label aerosols and cosmetics, said exports helped to drive profits to a new high in 1995, offsetting the impact of a difficult UK consumer market.

However, the company's Belgian subsidiary continued to trade at a loss despite a number of measures taken to restore profitability.

Pre-tax profits rose to £2.69 million

from £2.56 million on sales that advanced to £37 million from £34.87 million. The company said new contracts were secured in Japan and Australia and non-UK sales now account for 27 per cent of total sales.

Swallowfield, which was formed through a buyout from Cadbury-Schweppes 10 years ago, embraces the companies of Aerosols International, Cosmetics Plus and Parbel, a Belgian

manufacturer. The group's management structure is being centralised to market the Swallowfield brand in preference to the separate companies. The company, whose managing director is Tony Wardell, believes Parbel can be restored to profit by the end of the current year.

Earnings rose to 13.8p a share from 13.3p. There is a final dividend of 3.8p a share, due May 31, lifting the total to 6.5p from 6.2p. The shares rose 3p to 164p.

Lloyds TSB meeting disrupted

Two so-called "ethical streakers" disrupted the first annual meeting of Lloyds TSB yesterday as part of a protest about the bank's stance on Third World debt. Several people were ejected from the meeting in Edinburgh's new conference centre. There were several arrests among the 30 protesters, who were led by Lloyds and Midland Boycott (LAMB). A Lloyds TSB spokesman said Sir Robin Ibbotson, the company chairman, had offered to meet LAMB in February.

French strike

France Telecom workers began a 24-hour strike yesterday to protest over plans for partial privatisation of the state-owned telephone monopoly. The unions decided on the walkout after the Government's announcement in March that it would begin changing France Telecom into a corporation from a state agency.

Rathbone up

Rathbone Brothers, the private banking group, increased 1995 pre-tax profits to £7.4 million from £6.2 million in 1994. Earnings were 21.3p a share, compared to 21p in the previous year. A final dividend of 6.5p a share, due May 24, lifts the total to 10p (9p).

Polypipe sale

Polypipe, the manufacturer of plastic pipe and fittings, has sold its Allerton Glass business to Magnet, a subsidiary of Berisford, for £7 million. The proceeds will be used to reduce debts. The book value of the net assets sold was £5.1 million at June 30, 1995. Polypipe has also signed a trading agreement with Magnet.

Barcom buy

Barcom has acquired Meadham Plant Company, a supplier of general contractors plant based in Winchester, for a maximum consideration of £2.5 million in cash and shares. In the year ended April 30, 1995, Meadham earned pre-tax profits of £1.04 million.

Slowdown

Singapore's economy is expected to slow down because of rising labour and business costs and a strengthening currency, the Asian Development Bank said. "The outlook for Singapore in the next two years is for a deceleration of growth toward its sustainable long run potential of 7 per cent to 8 per cent," the bank added.

Nurdin & Peacock forecasts squeeze

BY SARAH BAGNALL

NURDIN & PEACOCK, the cash-and-carry operator which supplies more than a quarter of a million corner shops, yesterday predicted a shake-out in the wholesale industry.

Richard Fulford, chairman, said: "The industry will go through a period of consolidation in the next few years. We believe we will be well placed to benefit from this." He added that 1995 had been a very difficult year for the group and that conditions remained tough.

He said the company was trying to combat these pressures by investing in information technology and central distribution in a bid to reduce costs and improve margins.

Mr Fulford's remarks came as he revealed a rise in pre-tax profits and exceptional items

from £16.5 million to £19.6 million in the year to December 29. N&P announced it had acquired G Thompson, which trades under the banner of Thompson Wholesale Foods, for £400,000.

Including net one-off items of £1.8 million, profits rose to £21.4 million. The exceptional profit was the net effect of the £7.3 million profit on the sale of the Cargo Club warehouses offset by £5.3 million of provisions. The provision, which follows a strategic review by David Sims, who joined as chief executive in June, covers the cost of writing off supplier accounts.

Sales from continuing operations rose 8.5 per cent to £1.6 billion. The total dividend was lifted from 6.9p to 7.25p. The shares rose 1p to 175p.

Four-year high for oil prices

OIL prices rose to a four-and-a-half year high of \$22.66 a barrel yesterday as a rally picked up steam after a brief pause for breath. Analysts say crude could rise further as buyers in the West scramble to rebuild depleted refined oil product inventories.

While oil product prices, in particular petrol, might stay firm for longer, crude would probably start to reverse as summer approaches and extra supplies come onstream.

After rising 63 cents yesterday, the widely traded Brent crude has recorded an overall gain of more than \$6 since the end of January.

JP Morgan jumps 72% in first quarter

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

J P MORGAN, the US banking group, reported net income of \$439 million in the first quarter this year, a surge of 72 per cent over the same period in 1995.

Earnings per share for the quarter were \$2.13, against \$1.27 a year ago.

But first-quarter earnings last year included an after-tax charge of \$33 million, or 17 cents a share, related primarily to severance costs.

Douglas Warner, chairman, said: "Growing opportunities to put J P Morgan's worldwide capabilities to work for clients led to strong

first-quarter results." Market-making, investment banking, and investment management all produced substantial gains, he said.

Revenues totalled \$1.740 billion in the first three months, an advance of 25 per cent from last year's \$1.388 billion.

Net interest revenue declined 21 per cent, to \$396 million, reflecting lower returns from asset and liability management in the United States and a decrease in trading-related net interest revenue. Trading revenue rose to \$788 million from \$303 million.

Daimler-Benz chief talks of 'further tough decisions'

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN STUTTGART

BASED on a rise in first-quarter sales, Daimler-Benz, the industrial group, said yesterday it expects to show an operating profit this year.

In the first three months of 1996, Daimler's group sales rose 7 per cent to DM23.6 billion from an adjusted DM22 billion for that period last year. Manfred Gentz, chief financial officer, cautiously predicted a full-year sales increase of between 5 and 10 per cent.

But Jürgen Schrempf, the company's chairman, gave warning that "further tough decisions still have to be taken in 1996" to reverse 1995's substantial loss and restore earnings to a satisfactory level. One tough decision previously announced was that Daimler would not pay investors a dividend for the 1995 business year, when the



Schrempf gave warning

group recorded a net loss of DM5.7 billion. The full-year operating loss was DM1.1 billion.

Daimler-Benz revealed yesterday that its group sales last year rose just 0.8 per cent to DM103.5 billion.

The net loss came mostly from the restructuring of Daimler's widespread opera-

tions, including the divestment of Fokker, the loss-making Dutch aircraft-maker, and the AEG electronics division. Although financial support to Fokker was ended in January, Daimler-Benz is allowed under German law to charge the costs to 1995.

Separately, the Mercedes-Benz luxury car subsidiary said revenues rose 7 per cent in the first three months of this year, reaching DM18.1 billion. Mercedes also reported that higher sales and cost-cutting had improved its final results for 1995, bringing a net profit of DM2.28 billion, up 23 per cent from 1994.

Daimler-Benz Aerospace said its first-quarter sales were up 6 per cent over the same period last year, reaching DM2.16 billion. The aerospace division said it expected "substantial improvement in earnings" this year after dropping Fokker.

For your company golf day... it's the business



The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, organisation, partnership, association or body (not golf society) based in the British Isles, which holds a business or company golf day in which 12 or more amateur players take part.



How to participate

- All you have to do to take part in the Challenge is register your golf day, using the form (right) - then on the day itself, submit the results.
- Simply send off the completed form, together with the registration fee of £150 plus VAT as soon as possible, prior to your golf day and no later than 16th September 1996.
- The top four scoring golfers in your golf day's individual Stabstest competition - including up to three guests (your option) - will become eligible to represent your company (as a team) at one of the twelve regional finals in October this year.
- Your team of four will, if their aggregate Stabstest score is among the top 25 aggregate scores in your region, qualify for a regional final.
- The winning company from each of the twelve regions will compete in the national final at Hyatt La Manga Club Resort in Spain in November. To be filmed for a Sky TV broadcast.
- Golf days registered after 16th September or played after 27th September will be entered for the 1997 Challenge.

Benefits of Entry

- Your golf day featured in The Times 'forthcoming golf days' feature list.
- Your golf day results featured in The Times 'golf day results' column.
- A set of four personalised event trophies for your golf day winners.
- Copies of The Times delivered to the golf club on the morning of your golf day.
- Complimentary copies of the event newsletter on your golf day.
- A golf day management software program for use on your golf day.
- Complimentary copy of the Official event magazine 'The Business Golfer'.
- A chance for your company golf day winners to qualify as a team to play in a Regional Final.
- The opportunity, should they win the Regional Final, to play in the National Final, to be held in November 1996, at The Hyatt La Manga Club in Spain and filmed for a Sky TV broadcast.
- The winners of the National Final will be invited to participate in the World Corporate Golf Challenge.
- Other promotional opportunities for the golf day organiser.

Rules and Regulations

The competition is approved by the R&A for payment of expenses. *Rule 1-4 Etc. 7 R&A/96. A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgement of receipt of the registration form, or you may obtain a copy or further information by contacting the Challenge organisers at:

0171 436 3415 or
0141 221 2225 (Scotland)
or by fax to 0171 436 2581

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Company Registration

Company name.....
Company address.....
Post Code.....
Telephone No.....
E-mail.....
Facsimile.....
Name of company representative (to whom all correspondence will be sent).....
Will be holding a golf day at..... Golf Club
Address.....
County.....
on..... (date) and will be attended by approximately..... golfers.
If the venue and date of your golf day have yet to be finalised please leave blank and inform us as soon as it is confirmed.

Trophy Requirements

The trophies for your four qualifiers will be sent to you for presentation on your golf day. Unless you state otherwise, your company name, as spelt out in section 1 above, will be inserted, as will the date and name of the golf club. If you require an abbreviation of your company name or indeed another name altogether...

Please print here:

I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and enclose a cheque for £176.25 inc. VAT, made payable to The Times MeesPierson C.C.C. Please send this completed form to The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 3DL. A VAT invoice will be sent with acknowledgement.

Signed.....

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FRIDAY APRIL 12, 1996

Lloyds TSB meeting disrupted

French strike

Rathbone up

Polypipe set

Rock eze

Harmon up

Morgan jumps in first quarter

Chief talks h decisions

Shares slip in late trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996		Low		High		Company		Price		Change		%		P/E	
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES															
55	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	56	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
57	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	58	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
59	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	60	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
61	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	62	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
63	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	64	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
65	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	66	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
67	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	68	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
69	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	70	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
71	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	72	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
73	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	74	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
75	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	76	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
77	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	78	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
79	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	80	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
81	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	82	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
83	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	84	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
85	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	86	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
87	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	88	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
89	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	90	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
91	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	92	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
93	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	94	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
95	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	96	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
97	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	98	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
99	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	100	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
BANKS															
101	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	102	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
103	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	104	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
105	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	106	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
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109	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	110	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
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113	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	114	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
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127	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	128	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
129	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	130	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
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137	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	138	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
139	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	140	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
141	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	142	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
143	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	144	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
145	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	146	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
147	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	148	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
149	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	150	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
151	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	152	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
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181	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	182	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
183	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	184	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
185	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	186	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
187	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	188	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
189	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	190	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
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199	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	200	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
BANKS															
201	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	202	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
203	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	204	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
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221	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	222	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
223	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	224	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
225	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	226	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
227	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	228	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
229	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	230	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
231	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	232	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
233	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	234	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
235	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	236	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
237	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	238	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
239	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	240	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
241	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	242	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
243	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	244	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
245	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	246	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
247	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18	248	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2.6	18
249	42	38	Barratt	38	-1	-2									



POP 1

Former hellraiser Paul Westerberg now has a taste for nothing more life-threatening than a good cigar



POP 2

Simple emotions, simply expressed: you can't beat the schmaltzy ballads of the ever poised Lionel Richie

THE TIMES POP ARTS



POP 3

Cocteau Twins maintain their mystique on *Milk & Kisses*, an album that inhabits a world of its own



POP 4

The Beloved continue to peddle their shallow brand of blissed-out dance music on their latest, *X*

Too fast to live, too old to die

David Sinclair talks to rehabilitated rock 'n' roller Paul Westerberg about drugs, death, hellraising and the joys of a quiet evening in

Rock stars do not often break down and cry in interviews with journalists they have never met before. And Paul Westerberg, one of the most noted hellraisers of his generation, is the last person you would imagine to be an exception. Leader of the enormously influential and perpetually under-the-influence American group the Replacements from 1979 to 1990, Westerberg has lived the swaggering, staggering, rock 'n' roll life-style to the hilt. Now, on the eve of the release of his second solo album, *Eventually*, he is a sober, 36-year-old man with a taste for nothing more life-threatening than French cigars. He is, however, still counting the cost of his former band's excesses, specifically the drug-related death in February 1995 of guitarist Bob Stinson.

"I knew this would happen sooner or later," he says, jaw quivering as he removes his shades for the first time during our interview, and wipes the tears from his eyes with the sleeve of his black suit. "I've been able to keep the lid on it until now, but..."

"I go back and look at some of the press before he died and I remember a quote which said, 'What's supposed to happen is that one of us dies because that's what they want' and that's what they did want. We all knew that Bob was on the highway to hell. Even before we split up, he was out of the band through drug abuse that was even beyond what the rest of us were doing. He was not a stable man. He needed help and he never really got what he needed."

Westerberg has written a song for his lost friend, a desperately poignant ballad called *Good Day* with a chorus that goes, "A good day is any day that you're alive."

"I never thought I would make a statement like that, but we change. I don't look forward to playing it

live," he says, recovering his composure at last, and even raising a wan smile.

Good Day is one of 12 new compositions on *Eventually* that confirm Westerberg's enduring status as one of the great, unrecognised heroes of rock 'n' roll. His writing style combines poetic intimacy and humour with an authoritative, rhythmic cool in a way that recalls the work of greats such as Ray Davies and Keith Richards. The new album is a mellower and more rounded collection than his sensational debut, *14 Songs*, released in 1993, although tracks such as *Ain't Got Me* and *Had It With You* recall the raucous spirit of old.

"I was very relaxed about the writing and the pace at which I recorded this album, and I think that's reflected in the songs. And I chose a batch of songs that all felt the same way. I wanted to make this album easier and more accessible than *14 Songs*."

If Westerberg is now actively looking for a taste of commercial success, you can hardly blame him. After all, he has been knocking on the door for 16 years. Born in the last few hours of 1959, and brought up in Minneapolis, he came from a large family that numbered both musicians and alcoholics among its ranks, which may explain the young Westerberg's passion for both music and booze. He was never pushed to be a high achiever, which he now believes made him try all the harder to make something special of his life.

The Replacements sprang out of the same Minneapolis hardcore punk scene that spawned Hüsker Dü, another of the great, unsung influences on latterday American rock, and later, Soul Asylum. Taking their cue from the New York Dolls, the Mats (as the Replacements were known) became renowned for their raucous,



Grown up all right: Paul Westerberg, hunched against the cold and the vicissitudes of life, keeps his shades on — "All I wanted to do was play rock 'n' roll, but I've grown a little tired of it"

ragged brand of garage-band rock and notorious for their royally drunken displays of craziness on and off stage. But thanks to Westerberg's exceptional ear for a tune — which eventually produced gems such as *Left of the Dial*, *I'll Be You*, *Skyway* and *Alex Chilton* — they always seemed to promise so much more.

"Around the time of the fourth album, *Let It Be*, things were really rolling. Everyone was saying we were headed for the top. For a while we were the coolest band in America. We thought, 'We're going to be rich in a couple of years', and then two years later the crowds are thinning out and you suddenly realise that that was your heyday." In fact the Replacements' most successful album was *Don't Tell a*

Soul, released in 1989, which sold about 350,000 copies. But by then the combination of hard slog and even harder partying over so many years had taken its toll.

"We could have been millionaires and we would still have been sick of each other. We played our last gig on July 4, and it just dawned on everyone. Yeah, I guess we're done, aren't we?"

It is a cautionary tale and one that Westerberg admits he is lucky to be around to tell. He lives quietly now and spends most of his evenings reading.

"Everyone knows it takes a lot to get me out. What do you do when you go to a club? If you're not going to pick up a girl or get drunk, it cuts down the fun, really."

So is rock 'n' roll — as Ian

Hunter so memorably expressed it in his valedictory song *Ballad of Mori* — a losers' game?

"It depends what you want out of it. If you want people to admire you and you want to get laid and make money, you can do all that. But if you want to touch people, it's harder to do."

"Performing rock 'n' roll is just vaudeville: they pay money and you play the fool. All my early life all I wanted to do was play rock 'n' roll, but I've grown a little tired of it. Why can't you play rock 'n' roll on Friday night and go out to dinner with your family on Saturday night? I can play the music but I don't have to live the lifestyle any more."

● *Eventually* is released by Warner Bros on April 20

The white heat of technophobia

Strangelove are a band with a future.

Which is great for their lead singer

Patrick Duff, a man with quite a past

Patrick Duff, on stage, exudes the kind of electricity that the black-browed Paganini was supposed to have generated, but with a noncy violin rather than huge, grating Stratoasters and the death-rumble of overloading bass. When Duff snaps "How could I possibly explain my hatred of you?", he shines with a malice that dims the spotlight on him. When he convulses against his guitar, the first 20 rows swoon. When his sister made momentary eye-contact with him backstage last year, she almost fainted, and spent the rest of the evening with her pupils wildly dilated, whispering "He looked at me... me!"

And rarely for something so bound up in the glory of the moment, his urgency travels on to record too. *Hysteria Unknown*, the second single from his band, Strangelove, is — and I know I am occasionally prone to exaggeration, but this is the simple, objective truth — one of the greatest singles ever recorded.

Three-and-a-half minutes of wildly spralling guitars, unforgoably passionate, painfully restless: finding momentary release in ferried ranks of double-tracked Duffs repeating the words, "Hysteria unknown", as his primary vocals urgently cry, "Go anywhere/That's far away/Lie quietly down and die in shame", before launching themselves back into the confusion. *Hysteria Unknown* is an extra bonus B-side to Strangelove's new single, *Living with the Human Machines*. And it's not the best thing on there.

"Machines make me shudder. I can't be doing with them," Duff explains, twisting uneasily in his chair. "My flatmate has an answerphone, but I won't touch it. Computers — I'll never get my head around them. Imagine pouring what's in your mind into something plastic and metal — I find that vaguely revolting."

"I can't believe that people invite these contraptions into their houses. It's like trying to domesticate lions — they'll always be at odds with you, you can never tame them. Of course, I plug in my guitar to a machine,

and I sing into a machine, but at least there's something human there. I can mess it up, make it mine. Most humans are essentially lonely anyway — why try and keep us further apart with these electric partitions?" Duff shivers. "When you walk the streets, and start counting up the machines that surround you, you realise technology — steel and nickel and alloy and wire and electricity — outnumber humans by ten to one."

"The world's gradually becoming binary, black and white — we're eradicating doubt and areas of leniency. It's all either

fact or fiction, true or false. And humans thrive on the unexplained; the gaps that you can fill with unclassifiable things like song, prose, poetry, conversation and love. And when all those areas have been paved over and wired up, humanity will disappear." This revulsion translates to the single, a Nick Cave-esque plea to the skies with a needling violin that puts the teeth on edge as Duff hollers his despair and doubt.

Patrick has had a lot of time to ponder humanity's foibles — spending ten weeks in rehab, away from televisions, newspapers, books, friends and music tends to concentrate the mind wonderfully. "I was, am, an alcoholic. Since I went to rehab I feel like I've been reborn — but not in that horrible New Age Californian way. It's like I'm doing everything for the first time."

"Half of me wanted to show off, wanted to perform, wanted to be famous — and the other half thought that was immoral. So I drank. If I was drunk, that was an excuse, a reason for being like I was. Now I have no excuses — everything I do is because I want to. I have to take responsibility for my actions. But it's cool."

"It's like living your life twice, as different people. I've been the drunken, obnoxious Patrick. And now I get to do my life again as the sober, reasoned Patrick."

● The single, *Living with the Human Machines*, is out now on Food Records. The album, *Love and Other Demons*, follows in June



CAITLIN MORAN

NEW ALBUMS: Lionel Richie steers a course through familiar waters after a decade on the beach

The Commodore gets a bit wet

LIONEL RICHIE
Louder than Words
(Mercury 532 241)

IT has been ten years since Lionel Richie's last new album, *Dancing on the Ceiling*, a leisurely rate of output even for a former Motown superstar. But, unlike the comparably sporadic releases of Stevie Wonder and Michael Jackson, *Louder than Words* arrives without fuss or fanfare, confirming Richie's curiously undervalued status among the heavy hitters of black American pop.

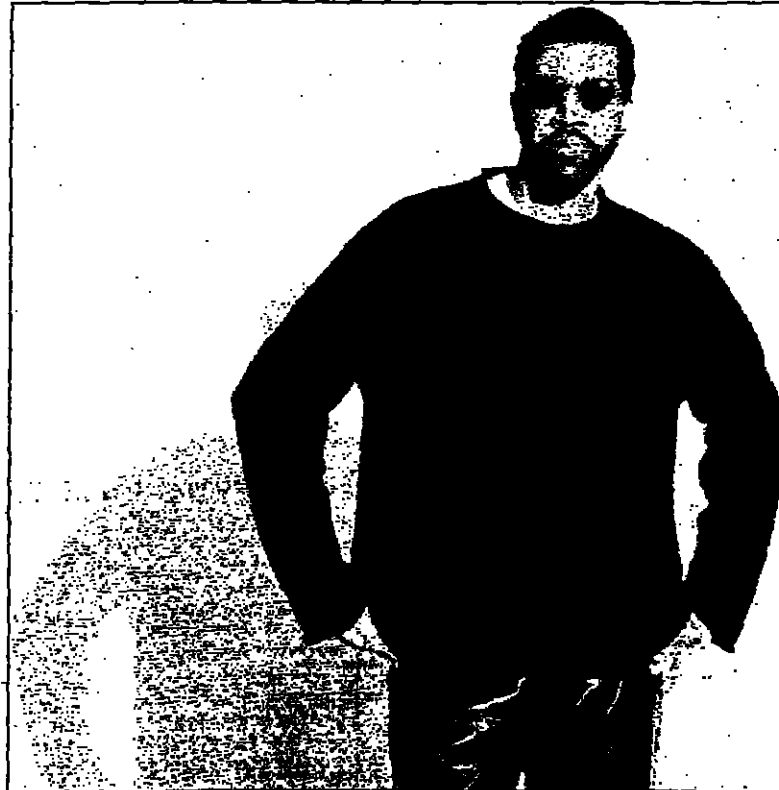
A performer who habitually plays well within his game, Richie continues to write and perform songs that deal in simple emotions simply expressed. Most levels of meaning within his lyrics can be gleaned from the titles alone — *Can't Get Over You*, *Don't Wanna Lose You*, *Now You're Gone*, *Still in Love* — and there is a gentle but persistent bias in favour of safe, schmaltzy ballads.

But it is when Richie attempts something a little more adventurous — such as the strangely aching vocal and crazy funk bass line of *Change* or the high-rolling jazz swing of *Lovers at First Sight* — that you get a tantalising glimpse of what the man is truly capable.

THE WALKABOUTS
Devil's Road
(Virgin 724384134021)

CONVENED in Seattle 12 years ago and signed to the Sub Pop label for six years, the Walkabouts nevertheless seem to have been completely unaffected by the rise and fall of grunge. Their music is rooted in the baroque, storytelling tradition of Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, and it is no coincidence that *Devil's Road* was produced by the Australian Victor Van Vugt, best known for his work with Cave.

The songs, all written by Chris Eckman, are peopled with drifters and desperadoes and often conjure a sense of earnest wonder: "Even the mightiest rivers will bend/Before they vanish in the sand". Conventional rock band instrumentation is augmented by violin and pedal steel, while much of the



Lionel Richie: no jokes about him being a shadow of his former self, please

album's doomy grandeur derives from Mark Nichols's dramatic string arrangements, performed by the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra.

The singing duties are divided between Eckman (a deep, Cave-man

growl) and Carla Torgerson (a contrastingly high, frosty tone), and, since the two hardly ever feature on the same song together it feels, at times, as if there is a tug of war going on over the album's soul.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Greatest Hits | Take That (RCA) |
| 2. What's the Story Morning Glory? | Oasis (Creation) |
| 3. Falling Into You | Celine Dion (Epic) |
| 4. Jagged Little Pill | Alanis Morissette (Maverick) |
| 5. Wildest Dreams | Tina Turner (Parlophone) |
| 6. Ezzard Fright I & II | M People (Deconstruction) |
| 7. Hits | Mike & the Mechanics (Virgin) |
| 8. Moseley Shoals | Ocean Colour Scene (MCA) |
| 9. Different Class | Pulp (Island) |
| 10. Garbage | Garbage (Mushroom) |

THE BELOVED

X
(East West 0630-13316)

THE husband and wife duo of Jon and Helena Marsh, better known as the Beloved, carry on peddling a peculiarly shallow brand of blissed-out dance music on the enigmatically titled *X*. The formula depends on synthesized chord sequences and effects, a mechanised beat and intermittent bouts of lovey-dovey stage whispering by Jon. The result is songs of limited melodic and rhythmic invention and lyrics that are simple-minded, at best.

Without the visual distraction of all those naked bodies on the video of *Satellite*, the track fails to sustain interest in its thumping house beat and pseudo-gospel chants. And, while there are more imaginatively syncretised numbers, notably *Missing You*, and an intriguingly cool shuffle on the off-beat called *Three Steps to Heaven*, it is not enough to make the pudding rise.

COCTEAU TWINS

Milk & Kisses
(Fontana/Mercury 514 501)

THE Twins have often been imitated but could never be mistaken for anyone else. From the echoing, opening chords of *Violaine* to the majestic, drifting finale of *Seekers Who Are Lovers*, their new album inhabits a musical world of its own.

For a group who have been together for 14 years, they have surrendered surprisingly little of their mystique. True to form, the abstract cover artwork of *Milk & Kisses* gives away little beyond a list of impenetrable titles including *Rilkean Heart*, *Tishbite*, *Eperdu* and *Calfskin Smack*, while Liz Frazer continues to use her tremulous soprano to skip and skate across the melodies, forming delicate clusters of syllables with no discernible meaning.

There are some lovely tunes, and the arrangements are more firmly and finely structured than has often been the case in the past. But for all their fragile beauty the songs evoke little more than a creeping sense of *déjà vu*.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CASSANDRA
wilson

"A vocalist so good it's hard to believe she really exists."

Independent on Sunday

"Outstanding"

The Wire

"... amazing American vocalist... transforming material by U2 and Neil Young into music they could only have dreamed of. Unmissable."

Time Out

"... one of the most breathtaking voices of the 1990s."

Observer

Experience the voice of Cassandra Wilson on her new album *New Moon Daughter*

spellbinding collection of pop, blues, roots & jazz

CD available now on

Hastings increases feeling of optimism

By RICHARD WETHERELL

FOR the first time in its short, start-stop-start history, the World League of American Football (WLAF) starts its season with a feeling of optimism. All six teams return to the same cities with the same six head coaches and, after a lengthy closed season, the campaign starts with two derbies — tomorrow the Rhein Fire entertain the champions, the Frankfurt Galaxy, and on Sunday the Scottish Claymores visit the London Monarchs at White Hart Lane.



Hastings: challenge

last season. His performance on the pitch will be watched almost as keenly as his pounage, which, listed at "350lb-ish", seems on the generous side.

Gavin Hastings has done a similar job for the Claymores. While the capabilities of the former Scotland and British Isles captain and the record points-scorer for his country are well known in rugby union, his decision to try and kick a different type of ball is a brave one. "It's going to be a major challenge getting on that field and lining up my first PAT (conversion), field goal or kick-off," he said earlier this week.

At training camp in Georgia last month, Hastings received

some impromptu coaching from Mick Luckhurst, the English-born kicker who spent seven years in the National Football League with the Atlanta Falcons, and Morten Andersen, the present Falcons kicker, who is believed to be one of the best ever. He described that entrancing 30-minute spell when the pair took apart his technique as "the most memorable experience of Atlanta". Whether he can be successful will be as intriguing as guessing the Frigate's true weight.

The attendances will be studied almost as keenly. Last year, the Monarchs were reluctant to nominate a figure for their first home game — and with good reason, as fewer than 9,000 turned up. This week, the Monarchs have been almost as coy, but always seem to let slip a figure of 15,000. As the League's flagship franchise, the number at White Hart Lane on Sunday will be almost as important as the result.

The six teams, which also include the Amsterdam Admirals and Barcelona Dragons, play each other on a home and away basis. The team with the best record after the first half of the season will host the World Bowl on June 22 or 23 and will play the team which records the best record in the second half in the championship game. Last year, on June 17, the Galaxy beat the Admirals 26-22 in Amsterdam.

Each team has seven "national" (non-American) players, one of whom must be a kicker or punter. For the first two drives of the game, each team must have at least one national player on the field. The rules do not apply for the next two drives, but come into force for the next set of possessions.

FIGURES: London Monarchs: Sunday; Scottish Claymores: (H) April 20; Frankfurt Galaxy: (A) April 27; Rhein Fire: (A) May 6; Barcelona Dragons: (H) May 11; Amsterdam Admirals: (A) May 19; Frankfurt Galaxy: (H) May 27; Amsterdam Admirals: (H) June 4; Rhein Fire: (A) May 11; Frankfurt Galaxy: (A) May 19; Rhein Fire: (H) May 26; Frankfurt Galaxy: (H) June 1; Amsterdam Admirals: (A) June 9; London Monarchs: (H) June 16; Barcelona Dragons: (A)

Desperately seeking wizards of Oz rules



Jensen, left, Damien, Brian and Adam are enthusiastic about Australian Rules football, despite the very tight shorts. Photograph: André Camara

Time Out. The very best London listings magazine, has a Sportsboard column wherein clubs and gymnasia, base, basket, foot, soft and volleyball teams invite readers to consider membership. Last week the Rainbow Warriors' advertisement called for: Lesbian fast-pitch experienced pitcher and catcher.

I was looking for something more general, settled for North London Lions seek new players of Australian Rules football. Oz ancestry not essential. Contact Brian.

I contacted Brian and, on Wednesday evening, he and I and the Lions' coach, who is called Damien, from Adelaide, also Adam, who works in a hospital research laboratory, and Jensen, a carpenter with bar experience, both keen on embracing Australian Rules, met in a pub called O'Henry's in Finchley Road on the eastern fringes of London-Isle Kilburn.

Channel 4 used to show Australian Rules. It was the sport in which men wore very brief, very tight shorts and sleeveless jerseys and ran into each other a lot. Like Gaelic football with added violence.

The oval on which they play is the size of two and a half football pitches. There are four goalposts at each end: getting the ball — rugby shaped but smaller and heavier — through the tall centre posts counts six points. A single point is awarded for a "behind", the spaces between the centre and outside posts.

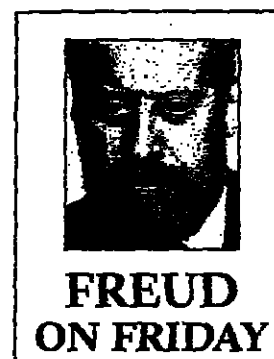
Teams comprise 18-a-side with four substitutes who can be interchanged an unlimited number of times. There is no offside rule and, in Oz, they don't send people off, not for anything. A player can walk onto the field, punch an opponent on the nose and it's all right... for the time being.

Tackles should be above the knee and below the shoulder; well, yes, technically you can grab a man in the crotch but the trousers are very tight.

We were drinking pints of lager and, when it was my round, I asked what I could get. They said lager.

I suggested they tell me which kind of O'Henry's seemed to serve a fair selection and they said "you don't ask Australians what kind of lager we drink lager".

Over the next glasses of whatever, I learnt about "shirt



FREUD ON FRIDAY

front", which is Rules-speak for a shoulder charge that misses its target: "blind turn", a rolling turn to avoid the tackler, and the "mark", which is similar to marks in rugby except you do not need to have your feet on the ground.

The game consists of four 25-minute quarters and begins with "ball-up": the umpire throws the ball in the air and two ruckmen go for it. You can do pretty well anything to the ball except throw it kick, hold in one hand and punch it away in the other. run... and only the man in possession may be tackled.

There is, says Brian — and I watch him closely to see

whether he keeps a straight face — a perception (false) that the game is rough.

Damien shakes his head, wondering how such a thought could have entered people's minds. Jensen, who originates from Burma and now lives in Upton Park, smiles. Adam, from Poole in Dorset, wants to play because he is approaching 30 and is looking for a contact sport to see him through the summer. He listens impassively, uneasy about the shorts.

Each team has a full back and two back pockets: a centre half-back and two flankers; a centre man and two wings; centre half-forward and two forward flankers; full forward and two pockets; also one ruckman and two forward pockets who follow the play regardless and may run up wards of 12 miles in one game.

North London Lions play at Mill Hill RFC, about 14 miles a year in the league dominated by Wandsworth Demons, unbeaten in 1995 in cup and league. The cost of joining is £30 per annum for which you get a T-shirt, have your gear supplied and laundered, have a man on the sidelines with first-aid kit and

receive special deals at O'Henry's — like priority entry if there is a queue. O'Henry's sponsor the team and run a barbecue which is to be either free or subsidised.

As football league clubs used to have a limit on the number of foreign players they may use, so the Australian Rules League insists that no team has more than 11 Australian players. "We do this to promote the game."

"How many watch?"

"About 30."

"Who umpires?" That is one of the problems: they need umpires who know the rules and can keep up with the play and, when you get people like that, they don't want to umpire, they want to get in there.

Adam and Jensen are keen, receive Lions shirts onto which have been stitched the badges of two sponsors... "Terrible job stitching on those badges — lacerates fingers," Brian explains.

"Could you not find someone with a sewing machine?"

Australians come over with effects weighing 30lb; no room for sewing machines. We decide that the next ad in Time Out might be for a seamstress.

Backers to secure long-term future of Windsor

By JENNY MACARTHUR

THE Royal Windsor Horse Show, which has been under financial pressure for a decade, has received support from BCM Worldwide, the international equestrian management company, which will secure its future well into the next century.

Simon Brooks-Ward, a director of BCM, who made the announcement in London yesterday, said: "We are injecting a considerable amount into the show and intend to see it not only survive but thrive."

Robert Wiseman chief executive of Windsor, welcomed the BCM as the "ideal partner". The five-day show, which costs £800,000 to run, was founded in 1943 by the late Count Robert Orsini and Geoffrey Cross, who died last year.

When the Richmond show ended 30 years ago, it was left to Windsor to uphold the tradition of the big outdoor show. Its pageantry, style and royal connections (the Queen is patron and has not missed a show since her accession) gave it a unique position among shows but it flourished against considerable financial odds.

In 1984, after the loss of key sponsors, it was reduced to four days. The cutbacks coincided with a decline in its international standing.

Brooks-Ward, director of the successful Olympia show-jumping championships, intends to restore top international showjumping in the main arena and to make the Harrods International Driving Grand Prix the premier driving championships in the world. "Our objective is to develop the competitive elements whilst retaining the pageantry," he said.

This year, the show, back to five days, takes place in its traditional setting in Home Park from May 8 to 12 and has attracted a record entry of 3,450. Nick Skelton, the winner of the 1995 showjumping World Cup who now competes mainly on the Continent, is making a rare appearance at a British show. He and the two Whitaker brothers, Michael and John — who also compete at Windsor — are leading contenders for the British Olympic team.

In addition to the showing, jumping and dressage, the show will host a range of fun events and displays.

SPORTS LETTERS

RFU right to take firm stand against clubs

From Mr Tim J. D. Cunis

Sir, Well done the Rugby Football Union! After Cliff Brittle's appointment as chairman of the executive committee in January and a period for fact-finding, consultation and negotiation, it was right to throw down the gauntlet to the senior clubs (report, April 10). Rugby union is living in difficult and dangerous times and David Hands tells us a sorry tale of strident arrogance, personal vilification and greed by the "top clubs".

The RFU has to service the needs of all clubs both great and small. In particular, in the face of the collapse of rugby coaching in our schools, we need the excellent but expensive new RFU structure of coaching and refereeing courses and all the necessary infrastructure and administration that goes into maintaining an ongoing wide base of available and improving players. Expensive imported talent may sparkle briefly, but English rugby lives off it at its peril.

The irresponsible demands for each top club gathered under the banner of English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (EPRUC) to be given £1 million are unrealistic and do not match the product. Poor individual skills amongst the majority of these clubs do not warrant inflated player payments as yet — certainly not to the detriment of support of the wider game.

The game in England is in a state of flux. Who is to say that the clubs that are currently in the top ten, or 20, or even top 40 are the wisest, the best, the correct ones to take our game forward? An exclusive, self-protective, short-sighted, autonomous cartel of clubs living off talent purchased from other nurturing clubs and unions cannot be in the best interests of our game. The clubs cannot all expect to become fully professional overnight. If it takes two or three years to earn their way, so be it.

If the top clubs refuse to co-operate with the RFU and they break away from the RFU (or some of them are expelled), then, surely, they must also leave the cosy umbrella of the International Board, which has ruled that all broadcasting rights are vested in the 67 worldwide unions with territorial jurisdiction.

Are Welsh — or South African — clubs really going to play return fixtures against a few clubs in England without certainty of continuing television income? Are other European clubs really intent on playing top English clubs in a new structure without appropriate recompense? Are all the members of the current England squad so cash-oriented that they will give up hopes of all future caps and hand the chance to grace Twickenham to players in lower clubs? I think not.

EPRUC should now admit that it has tried: that it has failed; and that it now agrees to go along with the RFU requirements and the wishes of the vast army of rugby union supporters who voted overwhelmingly for a "seamless" structure.

I hope, too, that our top players also have the wisdom to see the writing on the wall and are not led astray by misguided, ephemeral self-interest. It would be a pity for players to become contracted to clubs about to go bust.

Yours faithfully,
TIM CUNIS,
62 Derby Road,
East Sheen, SW14.

Selective views

From Mr Thomas N. Martin

Sir, Alan Lee's statement that "watching others play cricket bored" Ian Botham (April 4) is well illustrated by Botham's lack of knowledge about his fellow cricketers when attempting to answer any questions on his specialised subject whilst competing on the television programme *A Question of Sport*. He finds it highly amusing to present this persona that didn't have to study cricket in order to develop his own game. Such an angle may seem trivial but is revealing about the format that Botham might choose for his would-be selection meetings.

Yours sincerely
THOMAS N. MARTIN,
Rochill,
North Latch Road,
Breckin, Tayside.

From Mr M. F. Lowe

Sir, It seems obvious to me that the people closest to cricket are the players and that, therefore, the Test team should be chosen by the three (or five) senior county captains.

Yours sincerely
M. F. LOWE,
8 Squirrels Heath Lane,
Gidea Park,
Romford, Essex.

Boat Race has to alter

From Mr Oliver Mason

Sir, David Miller's article about the Boat Race (April 8) prompts a couple of suggestions for the future. Now seems the right time because, as a Cambridge man, I can't be accused of wanting to change the rules to try and improve our future chances.

I know I am by no means alone in thinking the race should be between undergraduates of Oxford and Cambridge, as of yore. Any man (or woman, in the case of the coed who had already graduated from any university) would be ineligible. Furthermore there should be an age-limit: perhaps 25 would be reasonable. These changes could not be introduced immediately; I would suggest 2002 as the starting date.

One change I should like to see straight away, however, is the abolition of "rowing bursters". Keeping money out of amateur sport seems to be fraught with difficulty these days, but the attempt surely has to be made.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER MASON,
Ridge House,
Jonas Lane,
Wadhurst,
East Sussex.

England's benefit

From Mr Michael Nixon

Sir, The Football Association cannot justify inflated prices for major matches unless it can guarantee every seat is used.

Perhaps the FA should issue all unsold tickets (within, say, 48 hours of the kick-off) free to local schools and junior football organisations.

This would prove particularly beneficial for England's warm-up campaign for Euro '96 and give younger players and supporters the opportunity to share our national sport at the highest level.

Yours etc.,
MICHAEL NIXON,
25 Bardfield,
Bastidon, Essex.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This refresher is another example of elimination play. Tell me when you are fed up with them.

Dealer South

East-West game

<p> ♠ A 7 5 3 ♥ A 10 8 2 ♦ K Q 8 5 ♣ 6 </p>		<p> ♠ 6 2 ♥ 7 ♦ J 10 7 6 ♣ A J 10 6 4 2 </p>	
W	N	E	S
Pass	3D (1)	Pass	1H
Pass	4H	Pass	3H
Pass	5H	Pass	4NT
All Pass			6H

Contract: Six Hearts by South. Lead: queen of spades

(1) North has too good a hand to raise his partner directly to Four Hearts and has to choose some stronger action. There are two reasons for choosing Three Diamonds rather than Two Spades: firstly, the diamond suit is better, and secondly, if South supports diamonds North can always go back to hearts whereas it would not be so easy if South supports spades.

This diamond suit is an old chestnut in elimination play. You win the king of spades and draw two rounds of trumps. You take the ace of spades, ruff a spade, return to a trump and ruff your last spade. Now there is an important final preparatory move — you cash the king of diamonds before exiting with a club.

Here East has to win the trick, and now when he plays diamonds his trick in the suit disappears. Had West had the ace of clubs he would have had no choice but to give a ruff and discard — but notice that if you hadn't played off a top diamond he would have been able to exit in that suit.

For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9509.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Menchik scores

The final top scores in the Vera Menchik memorial tournament in Newcastle were: Team A: Andrew Martin 7 points (out of 9) and Andrew Muir 6; Team B: Susan Lalic 7 and Ruth Sheldon 6½. The competition honours the first women's world champion, Vera Menchik, who was killed by a German buzz-bomb in London during the Second World War.

Here are two wins by the top scorer from group A:

White: Andrew Martin
Black: Ruth Sheldon
Menchik Memorial,
Newcastle, April 1996

<p> 1 N3 2 e4 3 d4 4 Nxd4 5 Nc3 6 e5 7 Qd4 8 Qxe4 9 bxc3 10 Kd1 11 Nb5 12 Nb6+ 13 Qd3 14 Nb5 15 Qa3 16 J4 17 Qg3 18 Bb3 19 Nd6 20 Bc3 21 Bxd8 22 Re1 23 c4 24 Bc2 25 cxb5 26 Bb3 27 h4 28 Kd2 </p>		<p> c5 cxd4 Nf6 Bb4 Nc4 Qa8 Bxc3+ Qxc3+ Qxa1 c6 Kd7 f5 Nc6 Qxc5 Qxb8 f6 Rg8 a6 Qxd5 Kxd5 Bc7 d4 b5 cxb5 Rxb8 Re7 Ra8 </p>	
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White: Andrew Martin
Black: Ruth Sheldon
Menchik Memorial,
Newcastle, April 1996

<p> 1 d4 2 Nf3 3 Bf4 4 Bg7 5 Be2 6 0-0 7 c4 8 Nc3 9 Qc2 10 Bg5 11 Ra1 12 Bf4 13 a5 14 dxc5 15 a6 16 Nd5 17 Bc3 18 Qxc3 19 Bxg5 20 Ng5 21 Qh3 22 exf6 23 Qxf6 </p>		<p> Nf6 Bg7 0-0 c5 b6 d6 Nbd7 Nf5 Nd6 h6 Bf5 Bg4 bxc5 Na8 Bf5 Bxd3 g5 hfg5 f5 Nf6 Nf6 Black resigns </p>	
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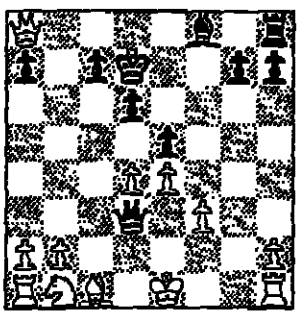
Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Rodzinsky — Alekhine, Paris 1913. In this position, White has grabbed material at the expense of his development. This is a very dangerous policy against such a fine attacking player as Alekhine. Can you spot the continuation that caused White to swiftly regret his greed?

Solution on page 38



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

NECROMIMESIS
a. Camouflage
b. Dumb show
c. Thinking one is dead

MURCID
a. Turbid or muddy
b. Idle
c. Welsh detectives

APORIA
a. A spotty skin disease
b. A prolific white rock plant
c. Insincere apologies

MATRIX
a. A figurative womb
b. Quarrel with a mother
c. A parameter

Answers on page 38

Unknown veteran makes confident start to first Masters challenge

Dougherty soaks up the Augusta atmosphere



ANDREW LONGMORE
At Augusta

As Ed Dougherty stood on the 1st tee at the Masters yesterday morning, the sunlight breaking through the air still chill, John O'Connor was praying for one more good shot. Just for old time's sake, for the sake of all those hours trudging round the Edgmont course together and the 21 years it has taken his old friend to reach the lofty eminence of that 1st tee.

Dougherty, a smile of relief crossing his well-worn face, duly obliged, his drive soaring down the fairway to a position even the man himself never really believed he would find. At the age of 48, Dougherty has waited longer than most to make his debut among the rhododendrons and the cypress trees of the Augusta National and, he admitted earlier in the week, having him rather than in front at least gave him a sense of perspective.

A Vietnam veteran, albeit reluctantly advertised, and a regular visitor to the dreaded "Q" school, where thrusting tyros and ageing pros try to gain their US PGA card, he has known worse feelings than standing in front of a few people at America's spiritual home of golf and hitting a little white ball towards a yellow flag. Yet it still did not steady his swing or his knees when it came right down to it.

"I only began thinking about golf when I hit a decent pitch on the 3rd," he said. What had been occupying him before that? "The thrill of being here, the atmosphere, what it will mean to those friends who I've known since I first started playing. That's why this is so special."

Halfway down the 1st tee, Dougherty stopped to share the time of day with friends, not something you might catch Nick Faldo doing at the opening hole of a major. Then he went and hit his second into a bunker — "a horrible shot,"

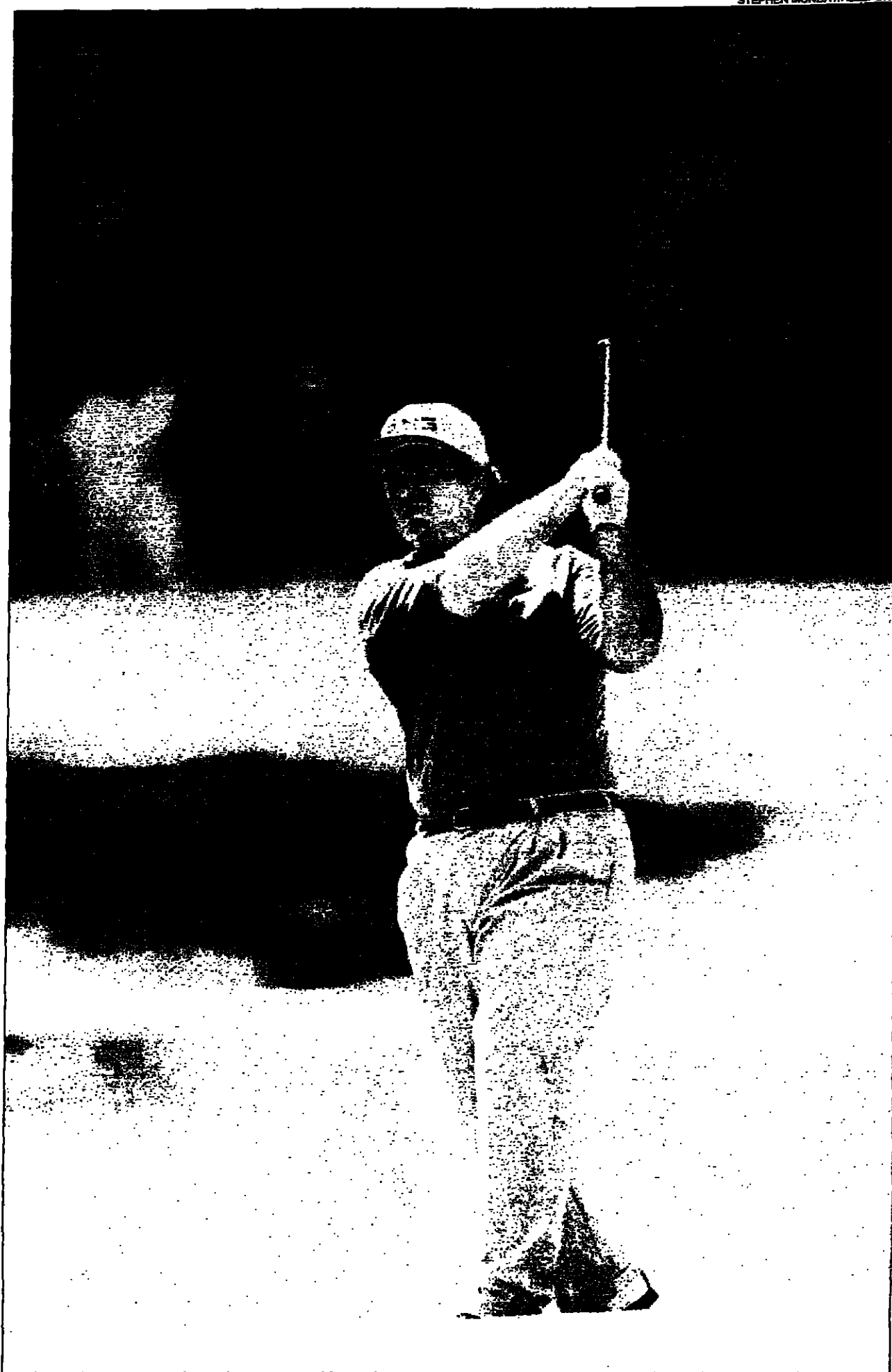
he later admitted. Two holes later, he was two over par and beginning to wonder whether the whole thing, the round he had lived through in his imagination roughly every springtime, was not going to slip into embarrassment. Even when he made the putting green, the surface was quicker, more slippery, than he had anticipated. "Scariest than it was in practice," he said.

Perhaps Augusta's tradition, its companionship, its clubbiness and exclusivity, which can be both warming and intimidating but is unchangeable either way, was also a lonelier feeling than he had expected, something deeper than the mere mispronunciation of his name — it is Docherty, not Dowerly — which had nearly cost him his hotel booking at the start of the week.

'The thrill of being here. That's why this is so special'

of the week. Dougherty's sense of belonging had to be home-made, brought with him in the form of his wife, Carolyn, and men like O'Connor and Bill Payne, people with whom he shared a barbecue the previous evening and much of his well-patched life before that. "Hell," Payne said as he walked up the 18th, "we've walked a long way from where we came from."

In golfing terms, a brief moment at the head of the US PGA leaderboard — "they were just putting up the 'y' as they were taking down the 'd'," as he memorably put it at the time — brought one family connection no one could match. When Dougherty and Mike Furyk were in their twenties and assistant professionals at Edgmont, they would shut up shop early to catch a final few holes on the course before sundown. One evening, the call came through on the course that Furyk's wife had gone into labour. Some hours later, she produced Jim Furyk, who yesterday completed a circle of sorts by making his Masters



Dougherty drives to the green at the 18th, completing his first round in the Masters at Augusta yesterday

debut, at the age of 25. "When Jimmie came onto the circuit," Dougherty said. "That's when I began to feel really old."

As if advancing age was not enough to contend with, a long-standing neck injury, suffered while moving a pinball machine, has been causing Dougherty pain for some months now. Restoring pin-

ball machines is one of Dougherty's hobbies. Model trains is another, safer, one.

By rights, he should have had an operation done during the winter, but having qualified for the Masters by winning the Deposit Guarantee Golf Classic (such catchy titles) last season, he was not about to risk the accomplishment of his life merely through the

surgeon's knife. "I don't think I would be putting it off for anything else," he said.

It would be nice to report a happy ending to this story, but a double-bogey six on the last ruined an otherwise respectable round. A 76, four over par, still leaves Dougherty with a chance of making the last two days and his pitch into the bank at the side of the 6th,

which bobbed up and landed about two feet from the hole, was the shot of the day, though few saw it.

Even fewer will remember the Doughertys of this tournament come Sunday afternoon. "I guess the Masters has done quite well without me until now," he said. It will be all the richer for his presence this week, though.

Ford is left out in the cold after Warrington agree sale

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

NOT only has Mike Ford been left out of Warrington's side for the visit of Halifax in the Super League tonight, the club has agreed a deal for the former Great Britain rugby league scrum half to join Wakefield Trinity. Ford, 30, has to confirm the move himself, but appears to have little option. Since leaving Castleford two years ago, not much has gone right for the former Wigan scrum half. A season with South Queensland Crusaders failed to work out, while infrequent and indifferent displays have punctuated his short time at Wilderspool.

John Dorahy, the Warrington coach, said: "Mike showed in our opening game, at Leeds, he is a tremendous competitor. Unfortunately for him, the club sees fit to let him go and perhaps the time is now right for a move. The final decision rests with Mike."

Ford's move to first-division Wakefield would keep him in good company, with Greg Mackay, whom Ford ousted at Warrington, enjoying a new lease of life alongside Garry Schofield at Huddersfield and Shane Cooper directing affairs behind the scrum at Widnes.

Kelly Shefford takes over at scrum half for Warrington and Mateaki Mafi, of Tonga, and Gary Chambers are recalled at centre and prop forward, respectively, following Monday's defeat at Wigan.

Like Leeds, who yesterday announced the first of three overseas signings — Nathan Picchi, 21, a New Zealand loose forward, previously with Hawkes Bay — Halifax, surprisingly, are bumping along the bottom of the Super League without a win. They had chances to beat London Broncos and Oldham Bears and, abjectly, surrendered an 18-point lead to Castleford Tigers on Tuesday.

Halifax must do without Graeme Hallas, the wing, and Paul Anderson, a prop, who were given two-match bans by the Rugby Football League disciplinary committee last night. Hallas was cited by the League for a challenge on Rob Myler, the Oldham wing, who sustained a broken nose. Anderson was sent off in the same match for a dangerous tackle.

A one-match ban for Karl Fairbank has saved the Bradford Bulls forward from missing the Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final on April 27. His punishment for a high tackle at Sheffield means that he will be absent from the Wembley dress-rehearsal at St Helens on Sunday.

Disciplined style of rivals sets example to Britain

FROM NORMAN DE MESQUITA IN EINDHOVEN

A 6-5 DEFEAT by Latvia, one of the favourites to win pool B of the world ice hockey championships here, might have appeared a promising start for Great Britain, but the final game on the opening day of the tournament put that scoreline into perspective.

Belorussia beat Switzerland 4-2 in an outstanding game which was played at breathtaking pace and showed both teams to be highly skilled, as well as fast, fit and strong. Although the decisive goal came as the result of a goal-tending error, both goaltenders made many excellent saves and both teams were highly effective on the break.

When Great Britain led Latvia 5-3, the obvious tactics should have been to play tight and close down the opposition. But British ice hockey places too little emphasis on defence and it was only the fine performance of Stephen Foster in the Great Britain goal that restricted the Latvians to three further goals. Far too often in the later stages of the game, he was left exposed.

Another aspect of Britain's game that must be addressed is the lack of discipline that incurs so many penalties. Three of Latvia's goals were scored with a Britain player in the penalty box and, while there were one or two refereeing decisions that could have been questioned, the penalties were, on the whole, deserved.

The Britain players must realise that the excessively physical style of play that is tolerated in their domestic game is not acceptable in international competition.

Doug Mason, the Canadian-born coach of the Holland team, believes that this lack of discipline gives his team a realistic chance of beating Britain. "If the referee is on top of it," he said, "Britain could get so many penalties that we will be able to take advantage and beat them, as long as we keep our own discipline."

It must be hoped that the Great Britain coach, Peter Woods, who watched the game between Belorussia and Switzerland, learnt from their physical but disciplined style.

After the Latvia game, Woods was critical of the officials. "The refereeing was a bit one-sided and the penalty which led to their winning goal was something of a mystery call," he said. "We had nine penalties while they had only two, and the refereeing was a major factor."

However, instead of querying the penalty decisions, Woods might be better served trying to prevent a repeat of the ill discipline which brought them about.

Pitch battle ends in time

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN ATLANTA

THE numerous administrative problems that threatened the cancellation of the six nations' hockey tournament here were resolved late on Wednesday night and the event was due to get underway yesterday on the practice pitch at the Clarke University stadium. Workmen were busy putting the finishing touches to the stadium's main pitch, which will be ready for use tomorrow. Today is a rest day, which will enable the work to be completed in time.

Mark Whitney, the director of communications for the United States Field Hockey Association, said yesterday that British protests had abated after a workout on the practice pitch. Britain had threatened to withdraw from the tournament.

The Clarke University stadium, which has a capacity of 5,000, will be one of two

venues used for the Olympic Games in July. A four nations' tournament for men and women was played here last August, but the main pitch was taken apart after complaints from participating teams and a ruling by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) that it would not be suitable for an Olympic tournament.

The original intention, Whitney explained, was to hold the six nations' tournament at the Morris Brown College stadium, where the main matches for men and women at the Olympic Games are to be played. "Construction delays forced us to abandon the idea of holding the six nations' tournament there and to switch it to the Clarke University premises, where we ran into further problems," Whitney said.

By the middle of last week, the organisers thought of call-

ing the whole thing off, but, with strong urgings by the FIH, they decided to make a special effort to hold the event. "The FIH had stressed that the participating teams were depending on the six nations' tournament for the final selection of their Olympic squads," Whitney said.

The tournament is expected to be in full swing tomorrow, when all the matches will be switched from the practice ground to the main pitch. Great Britain are due to play Pakistan and, on Sunday, will take on India, with whom they drew 3-3 in the qualifying tournament in Barcelona in January.

GREAT BRITAIN SQUAD: S. Mason (Reading), D. Luckie (East Grinstead), J. Wyatt (Reading), J. Halls (Old Loughborough), S. Singh (Southgate), S. Hallett (Hounslow), J. Laidlaw (Reading), captain, K. Kille (Telford), G. Carrick (Loughborough), G. Mayer (Canterbury), G. Thompson (Hounslow), R. Garcia (Pinto Club, Barcelona), J. Shaw (Southgate), C. Giles (Peters), M. Peart (Reading).

Dutch warm up with comfortable victory

BY ALIX RAMSAY

CONCEDING five goals is hardly the best preparation for an international against Holland, but it is the best the Great Britain women's hockey team could manage yesterday at Bisham Abbey. The two sides met for a training match as part of the build-up for the televised encounter tomorrow, but the 5-2 scoreline would have done rather more for the Dutch morale.

Britain started enthusiastically, trying to break down a solid defence, but could not find a way through. The enthusiasm waned when they went a goal down, Steenberg hitting in from a penalty corner after 24 minutes. Ten minutes later, Holland showed how to slice through a lethargic defence, as Donners got the second.

Two goals in three minutes in the second half saw the

Dutch put paid to the British challenge. Lewin made it 3-0 with a stylish individual effort while Van der Wieler squeezed in the fourth after an error by Robb, in the Britain goal. The hosts made the score a little more respectable with a Fraser penalty corner and a Cook penalty stroke, but Holland's work was almost done. Just for good measure, Van der Wieler cracked in a fifth, with two minutes left.

Sue Slocombe, the Great Britain coach, had to admit that the Dutch had been "sharper and more clinical".

Despite the gloom at Bisham Abbey, celebrations are expected in Doncaster tomorrow. Highwater, the premier division leaders, have only to beat their Yorkshire hosts to win their first league title, having already won the European Cup Winners' Cup.

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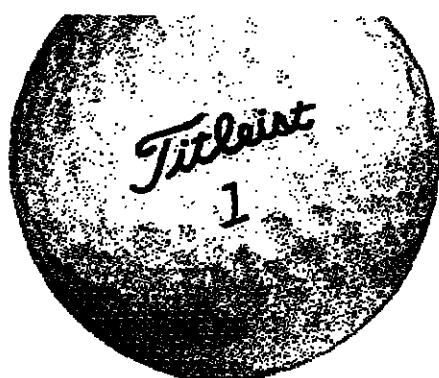
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HP2 ball is golf.

FRIDAY APRIL 12 1996

Ballesteros recalls Augusta heyday with inspired recovery shots

Gilford shows first round mastery again

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN AUGUSTA

THE Masters reveres tradition and, at Augusta National Golf Club, it is now traditional that David Gilford leads the Masters. The softly-spoken Englishman did so on his first visit to this famous tournament, in 1995, not allowing himself to be overawed as he walked in the footsteps of so much history. In his quiet, understated way, he did so again yesterday.

It was not for long in 1995, and it was not for long yesterday. Bob Tway, playing with Ted Tryba in the match ahead of Gilford, came in with a 67, five under par, to be the early leader in the first round. However, he was rudely shouldered aside by a storming 65 by Phil Mickelson. The left-hander, many people's favourite to win here, had an astonishing in-ward half of 30.

Nevertheless, the name Gilford, accompanied by the red figure 2, to indicate he was two under par, appeared on leaderboards all over the course, and for a time there was no one to challenge him. Two under after three holes, Gilford jumped to four under after he eagled the 13th.

No other golf course in the world has such a capability to defend itself against anyone taking liberties with it. It offers the velvet glove one minute, the iron fist the next. The velvet glove had been proffered on the 13th. Gilford's three-iron ended 12 feet from the hole and he sank the putt for a three on a hole where players are sometimes grateful to escape with a five. As Gilford stood on the 16th tee, a six-iron in his hand, he might have sensed he was about to be hit by the iron fist.

All week there has been a biting wind in this part of Georgia. This, combined with morning and evening cutting of the greens, made them as fast as in recent memory on the opening day. Gilford's tee shot on the 16th ended 30 feet from the flag, which was positioned in the top right-hand corner of the green. His first attempt on this notorious-

ly tricky green, which is exceptionally fast, almost stopped by the hole.

"I hit it a smidgen too much," Gilford said. The result was that, after almost coming to a halt, it slowly gained momentum and began running back down the green. It ended further away than it had started. Welcome to Augusta, to what Johnny Miller calls the spring putting contest.

Gilford's next putt shot past the hole, so did his next and it was with some relief that he holed out for a five, a double bogey. Gilford's excessive quietness is not a front. He really is as imperturbable as he seems and this characteristic



Tway: early leader

came to his rescue now for, regrouping himself and his emotions, he hit a nine-iron to four feet and sank it for a birdie, his third of the day, on the 17th. He finished with a par four for a 69, one stroke ahead of Paul Azinger.

In the United States, Gilford is known not only for his soft-spoken nature and his putt to defeat Brad Faxon in the last Ryder Cup. Word that he is a gentleman farmer has reached these shores, too, bringing with it numerous jokes about mad cow disease.

"A one-man farm can sometimes be 250 acres; mine is 50," Gilford said. "It really is a hobby. I have 25 to 30 cattle

aged between 2½ and six years old. I have never had a case of BSE. Normally my cattle would fetch £150 each, but now I suppose they are worth nothing." He paused and smiled before adding: "I am still eating beef."

Right on cue for the start of the sixtieth Masters, the temperature rose and what could pass for a proper spring sun in these southern states of the United States came out to shine on Gene Sarazen, Sam Snead and Byron Nelson as they performed the opening ceremony. Sarazen, Nelson and finally Snead, whose ages total 261 years, all drove from the 1st tee, in a vivid, Froustian tableau, a blessed remembrance of times past.

All three found the fairway, which was more than could be said for Severiano Ballesteros, who bunkered his drives at the 1st and 2nd, at the short 4th, and the long 8th. You would not have known it from his score. With the sort of wizardry that must have impressed his young nephews who, with their father, Manuel, were leading the Ballesteros support group, he saved par on the 1st and 2nd and squeezed a birdie out of the uphill 8th to reach the turn in 38.

His swing on the raised 10th tee looked as smooth as ever, etched in the mind's eye against a background of pine trees, but in attempting to draw his drive so that his ball would land and bound down the slope, Ballesteros overdid it. The ball ricocheted from a tree on the left of the fairway and stopped perhaps 230 yards from the tee, 60 yards behind Jeff Maggert, not a notably long hitter. From a downhill and sidehill lie, Ballesteros hit a thin-looking iron shot that ended short and left of the green. Again his short game came to his rescue. He pitched to nine feet and holed.

That recovery marked the start of a good run. He came back in 35, one under par, thanks to a birdie on the 15th, and his 73 is a better score than you would have thought possible if you had watched him driving on the 1st and 2nd holes. Augusta, a course and a place Ballesteros adores, may yet prove to be a welcome stop on his journey to recovery.

For Frank Nobilo, like Gilford playing in his second Masters, it provided a new experience. Peter Jacobsen, his playing partner, had withdrawn only moments before testing off suffering from sore muscles in his chest. Nobilo played the first two holes on his own. "It was weird," the New Zealander said after his 71. "It was like going to a wedding without the bride."

It was a lot less weird, however, than Sam Torrance's 80, his worst score here by four strokes. For Torrance, for whom so much seems to be going so well, this was a rare setback and in marked contrast to the brilliance of his playing partner, Mickelson.



Gilford acknowledges the applause of the appreciative gallery during his superb first round at Augusta

Portuguese club may offer misfit Brolin an escape route

BY DAVID MADDOCK

TOMAS BROLIN, the Leeds United forward, is about to end his troubled tenure at Elland Road. The player's agent was in Portugal last night, for talks with FC Porto about a prospective transfer.

Brolin, a Sweden international, has publicly declared his determination to leave Leeds, just four months after joining the club in a £4.5 million transfer. Described as coming in the most expensive player in the club's history, he was constantly overlooked by Howard Wilkinson, the manager, as relations between the pair appeared to degenerate.

Brolin was only a substitute at the Coca-Cola Cup final, and afterwards expressed his wish for a speedy departure, when told by Tommy Svensson, the Sweden manager, that his international place was in jeopardy.

Now Lars Petersen, his agent, is negotiating the move that will end an unhappy chapter in his career. He said that talks were progressing with Porto, and added: "I think it is time for Tomas to move to another club."

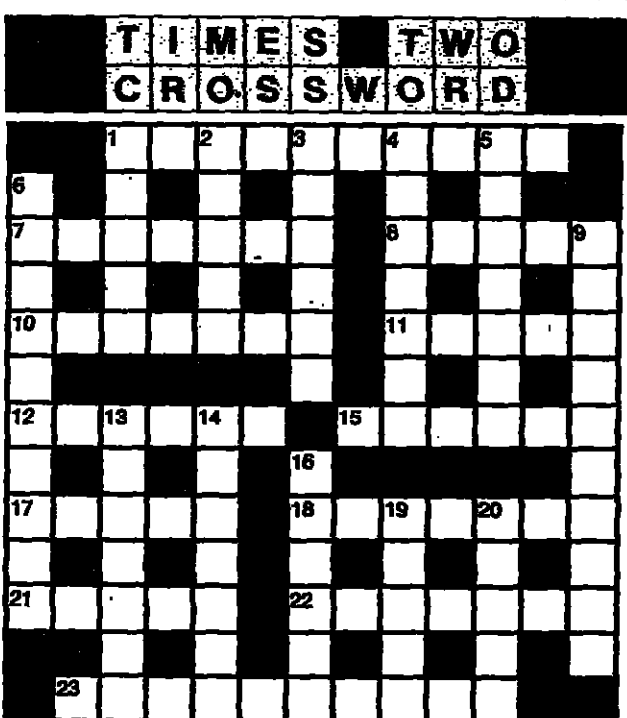
Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, has been barred from receiving FA Cup final tickets for the next ten years, after it was discovered that two tickets allocated to him for last year's final had been sold on for a figure nearly six times their face value.

The Football Association (FA) accepted that McCarthy had not profited from the sale. He had given the tickets to friends, who had sold them on. A spokesman for the FA, however, said that the situation reflected the need for supreme caution.

"We want to avoid these situations at all costs," he said. "Mr McCarthy's £60 tickets were sold to Norwegians for £350 each, and that really does bring the game into disrepute. It is a rip-off."

Ivano Bonetti, of Grimsby Town, has finally made peace with Brian Laws, his club manager. The Italian forward, who signed from Juventus, suffered a fractured cheekbone after a dressing-room altercation with Laws earlier this season. Yesterday, however, Bonetti pledged his future to the club. "I want to play for the club. I have no further argument with the manager," he said.

Advertisement for Guinness Extra Stout, featuring a bottle and the text: "Brewed under the influence (of our great grandfather)".



No 754

ACROSS

- 1 Scented foam for tub (6,4)
- 7 Current/resistance/PD relationship (4,3)
- 8 Circumference (5)
- 10 Undress (7)
- 11 Once more (5)
- 12 Psychic energy (6)
- 15 Session with medium (6)
- 17 Tiny piece of bread or comfort (5)
- 18 Give way to influence (7)
- 21 Pacific island, rugby in West (5)
- 22 Hard cheese (7)
- 23 Right in the middle (4,6)

DOWN

- 1 Knocks against: child's eg (5)
- 2 Phil Silvers' Sergeant (5)
- 3 Unemphatic (3,3)
- 4 Impediments: naughty woman (7)
- 5 Land, esp. the lie of it (7)
- 6 Three Boys' girl (10)
- 9 German WW1 marshal, had a line (10)
- 13 One from Birmingham (7)
- 14 Expert (slang) (3,4)
- 16 Nymph loved by Cupid; the soul (6)
- 19 Trickster (5)
- 20 Excessive (5)

The solution to 753 will be published Wednesday, April 17

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Clubs appeal to Bishop in attempt to break deadlock with RFU

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BILL BISHOP, the president of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), is the man who can break the deadlock between the union and its leading clubs. Yesterday, the clubs appealed to Bishop to exert his authority in the search for a reconciliation, without which they will withdraw from all RFU competitions next season.

Only a year ago, Bishop, then senior vice-president, was cast in the role of "old far" after televised comments about the RFU committee by Will Carling, then England captain. Now, the 66-year-old Cornishman may become a unifying force but only by overriding the union's negotiating panel, including Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU executive committee but perceived by the clubs as the main stumbling block.

Twelve club representatives - nine from the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship and three from the second, including the six directors of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs Ltd (EPRUC) - met in London yesterday and agreed not to participate in the RFU club

structure proposed for the coming season. Instead, they seek the union's acceptance of their own structure, embracing a 12-club English Conference, plus an Anglo-Welsh tournament and European competition.

"We accept that the union is the governing body," Donald Kerr, the EPRUC chairman, said. "But we do want to arrange and manage our own affairs and maximise the revenue we need to run our clubs. At this stage we don't intend to resign from the union but we are fighting for our future. If anyone at the RFU thinks this is a game of bluff, they are sadly mistaken."

After a five-hour meeting, the club representatives emerged to claim that not only did they carry their own management boards with them - and by extension club members - but that leading players, whose representatives met the RFU yesterday, were fully informed of their intentions.

"We are not some Packer-type organisation who will go off and play rebel rugby," Peter Wheeler, spokesman for the first division clubs, said. "We are a body of clubs that have been around for 100 years and more, we have deep

EARLY FIRST-ROUND SCORES

- US unless stated, par 72
- 65: P Mickelson
- 67: R Tway
- 68: L Jazzen
- 68: D Gilford (GB), B Faxon
- 70: P Azinger, S McCarron, S McCarron
- 71: T Aaron, J Maggert, F Nobilo (NZ), N Price (Zim), S Lowery
- 72: T Tryba, H Sutton
- 73: S Ballesteros (Sp)
- 74: D A Webb, J Sluman, M Roe (GB), A Palmer
- 75: G Brewer, B Casper
- 76: K Tipton, E Dougherty, N Lancaster, T Henon, B Hanning
- 78: B Bryant, M McCumber, I Baker-Finch (Aus)
- 79: G Marucci, S Torrance (GB)
- 81: D Ford
- 82: C Coody
- Withdraw: P Jacobsen
- * amateur

roots in our communities. We are not a bunch of guys coming along, looking to make a fast buck or hijack anything. We believe this is the right way forward."

Though the clubs may be temporising now, their belief, is that they have both the commercial and television support to sustain a breakaway. If they cannot reach

Thomas Wacker, 52, an American-born Irishman, is to be the new chief executive of the International Rugby Football Board. Wacker, an investment banker, was named yesterday to succeed Keith Rowlands and will start his new job on May 1. Wacker was chairman of IFG International and First National Trustee Company.

accord with the union, they intend to put their independent plans in motion and begin their English Conference games on August 31.

"Even at this late hour we believe that a compromise solution must be reached with the RFU, otherwise there will be a split for which the RFU will be held responsible," a statement said. That is the

position which the union's full committee will discuss today.

"I'm delighted they have stopped short of a breakaway or anything that would make the position very difficult to reconcile," Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said. The clubs believe it significant that Bishop was not present on Tuesday, when the RFU declared its unbending opposition to the concept of shared control of the English game - a concept which has drawn support from, among others, Syd Millar, president of the Irish Rugby Football Union. "It's a pity that one or two of Cliff Brittle's colleagues on the RFU are stabbing him in the back," Millar said, suggesting that English clubs were taking the road to bankruptcy.

Their contention is that they will arrive there anyway, if they toe the RFU line. "The RFU has made it clear that there is no more money to fund the professional game next year," Wheeler said. "We have nothing to lose going outside the union."

"But we are moving to the point where we are staring down the barrel, and that's where common sense must prevail."

THE TIMES
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13 PAGES OF SPORT

Can Greg Norman win his first Masters?
John Hopkins reports from Augusta



PLUS:
Can Newcastle keep up the championship chase?
Rob Hughes reports from St James's Park

French company plans to keep 30-year-old rolling stock and cut jobs

New rail chief dashes commuters' hopes

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of south of England commuters were condemned to travelling on 30-year-old "slam-door" trains for the foreseeable future yesterday by the new French owners of their rail franchise.

The French water company, Générale des Eaux, which won the franchise to run Network SouthCentral has warned that there are likely to be job losses among NSC's 3,000 employees and says it has no plans to replace ageing rolling stock on routes between London and the south coast during its seven year contract starting this summer. Instead, the fleet of 800 Mark 1 electric units, built in York between 1963 and 1967, will be

refurbished to extend their lives to the end of the franchise in 2003, when they will have completed 40 years of service.

Antoine Hurel, the vice chairman of London and South Coast railways, the subsidiary of Générale des Eaux that will run the franchise, said the company would spend up to £10 million improving trains and stations, a maximum of £12,500 per train.

However, rail experts said the planned expenditure would do little to improve the cramped and uncomfortable travelling conditions of commuters. "That's nothing, you will hardly even get a new livery for that," said Barry Doe, a leading transport con-



Hurel: jobs warning

sultant. "These trains are among the most shabby and demoralised left in the country and the thought of having to use them for the next seven years is a pretty grim one."

The franchise provides services from London's Victoria, Charing Cross and London Bridge stations to south west London, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire, including the resorts of Hastings, Eastbourne, Brighton, Worthing and Bognor Regis.

The failure by Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director, to secure new rolling stock for the line is being seen as a setback for rail privatisation, which the Government has pledged would lead to orders for modern trains.

Mr Salmon, who announced on Wednesday that he is to leave the job in October, said: "The rolling stock is fit for the life of this franchise and replacing it would not be economic. The

Health and Safety Executive is content with this." Roger Ford, editor of *Rail Privatisation News*, said: "This is just another bog standard deal that is no more than a contract to run services on behalf of the taxpayer."

Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said: "This award will do nothing to reassure passengers of the safety and reliability of services on these lines, which have rolling stock dating back to the 1960s. This will mean more misery for travellers."

The report into the Clapham disaster recommended that all slam door trains should be replaced by 1997 and last year's Holden report into the Cowden accident, in which five people

died, said that the chance of surviving a major crash in a Mark 1 train was "very low".

The report estimated the cost of strengthening the trains to match the level of protection of modern carriages at £300,000 each.

Mr Hurel also announced that the existing British Rail timetable will be safeguarded and that there would be off peak and Sunday services for South London and a new express service between London and Brighton.

In its first year the new company will receive a government subsidy of £85.3 million - compared to the original British Rail claim for a £106.28 million subsidy. The franchise is the sixth to pass into private hands.

New duke
not man
for all
seasons

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE cream of Scotland's aristocracy, dressed in their clan tartan, sat beside tweed-suited gillies, gamekeepers and factors yesterday in the Gothic cathedral of Dunkeld to honour the memory of the 10th Duke of Atholl, George Iain Murray.

Only one man looked out of place. John Murray, a semi-retired surveyor from a South African village, who shivered in a tropical-weight blue suit and light coat. The 11th duke had come with his wife, Peggy, and eldest son, Bruce, now Marquess of Tullibardine, to pay respects at his predecessor's memorial service. It was the first time the new duke had visited the area since the death of his distant cousin. But it was not the grove of proud Douglas firs overlooking the 15th-century cathedral that made the greatest impression on him, nor the silvery waters of the Tay. It was the weather.

Born and bred in South Africa, the 67-year-old duke looked blue with cold in the biting April wind. Apologising for saying little to waiting journalists, he ex-



The 11th duke, centre, outside the cathedral yesterday with his son Bruce, behind

plained: "I am sorry; my mind doesn't function in sub-zero temperatures."

He did, however, reaffirm that the future of the 85-strong Atholl Highlanders, the only private army in Europe and the pride of the late duke, was secure. "It is obvious that the army should be kept." The force may visit his country.

The 10th duke was known for his kindness but also his painful shyness. The 11th duke appears to have inherited the condition. He is a down-to-earth man who has no plans to use his title and for whom the family motto

Tout Prest (Quite Ready) seems inappropriate.

He has been staying at Blair Castle since Wednesday and will spend the next week visiting relatives. The castle and the 70,000-acre estate have been placed in trust and do not go with the title, although the late duke's will has yet to be made public.

Five hundred of his family and friends filled the cathedral yesterday and pipers played laments that echoed through the streets of the tiny Perthshire town. The Very Rev Professor Sir Robin Barbour, who fought with the

9th duke in the last war, conducted the service. The Earl of Wemyss and March, who took over from the late duke as president of the National Trust for Scotland, praised his stewardship of the private army. "He found it in a state of eclipse and, by the light of his personality, it shines again. He was a first-class steward of a wonderful part of Scotland."

Many of the duke's charitable and sporting interests attended, including the RNLI and Red Deer Commission.

Memorial service, page 22

Burger boss goes into higher orbit

By JOANNA BALE

The owner of the Planet Hollywood burger restaurants has seen his personal wealth rise from £80 million to £300 million in a year, making him Britain's fastest-rising entrepreneur in the *Sunday Times* survey *Britain's Richest 500*.

The increase has taken Robert Earl from 143rd place to the 37th. The top ten in the survey, all ranked as billionaires for the first time in five years.

The worldwide chain of Planet Hollywood have become money-spinners with the help of actors Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis, who all have a stake. Mr Earl, 44, a catering graduate of Surrey University, is

about to float the company on the American Stock Exchange and claims his wealth is actually nearer £500 million.

Another spectacular success is Joseph Lewis, a currency and art dealer living in the Bahamas, who has risen from 52nd place to joint 8th with £1,000 million. Britain's wealthiest man remains the food packaging magnate Hans Rausing who has a wealth of £2,880 million. Mr Rausing, born in Sweden, shared the honour last year with his brother Gad, who co-owns the successful drinks container company TetraPak. As Gad has moved to Switzerland, and therefore no longer lives and works in Britain, this excludes him from the British survey.

Only 38 women feature in the list, led by

the Queen at joint 26th place with a reported £450 million. The survey, published tomorrow, is the eighth annual analysis of rises and falls. The top ten are: 1. Hans Rausing, food packaging, £2,880m; 2. David Sainsbury and family, retailing, £2,520m; 3. Garfield Weston and family, food production, £2,200m; 4. The Duke of Westminster, landowner, £1,650m; 5. Sir John and Sir Adrian Swire, shipping and aviation, £1,300m; 6. Sir James Goldsmith, finance and politics, £1,200m; 7. John and Peter Moores, stores, mail order and football pools, £1,200m; 8. Gopi and Sri Hinduja, trading and finance, £1,000m; Joseph Lewis, finance, £1,000m; Viscount Rothermere, newspapers, £1,000m.

Police in
Dublin
question
bombing
suspect

By NICHOLAS WATT
AND STEWART TENDLER

DETECTIVES in the Irish Republic were last night questioning a man suspected of involvement in the IRA's bombing campaign in Britain.

The man, aged 26, was detained in a dawn raid on a house in Finglas, a working-class suburb in north Dublin. He was arrested on Thursday under the Irish Republic's anti-terrorism legislation which allows him to be held without charge until later today.

His arrest followed a lengthy surveillance operation by Irish police after the bombing of South Quay in London's Docklands, the attack that marked the end of the IRA's ceasefire. Sources in the Metropolitan Police confirmed their interest in the suspect.

The man, who comes from a staunchly Republican family, is someone Scotland Yard has wanted to question for some time in connection with earlier bomb attacks.

They include "bicycle bombings" in 1994 in Brighton and Bognor Regis in which a terrorist unit planted bombs made up of Semtex explosives hidden in bicycle saddle bags. Shops were damaged in one of the strikes but there were no casualties.

He is understood to have remained under surveillance in Britain and the Irish Republic for the duration of the ceasefire.

It was expected that he would appear in court late last night to face a warrant for his extradition to Britain. The proceedings open at the District Court in Dublin at which the warrants are presented and a judge sets a date for a full hearing at the court.

If the District Court agrees to the warrant for extradition, the suspect can appeal to the High Court and then finally the Supreme Court.

Boy of 13
on murder
charge

A 13-year-old boy has been charged with the murder of Gavin Whalley, 22, a student of Kingston, Dorset, who was killed ten days ago in Sydney while on a working holiday. The juvenile will make his first appearance in a local children's court as Mr Whalley's body is being flown home today, accompanied by his parents, Margaret and Roger Kellow. Mr Whalley was stabbed seven times as he walked home from his part-time factory job.

Girls arrested

Three teenage girls were arrested yesterday in connection with the death of John Burge, 61, who suffered a heart attack as he tried to help his 17-year-old daughter Helen, who was being attacked by a gang in Oxford. The girls, two aged 16 and one 17 and all from Oxford, were released on bail after being questioned about suspected public order offences.

Payout to golfer

Philomena Vaughan, the golfer who punched an alleged gruper at a golf club trophy evening, won £8,947 compensation from the club. Mrs Vaughan, 42, was sacked as manager of Dewstow Golf Club at Caerwent, Gwent, after refusing to apologise to John Price, the man she hit. An industrial tribunal in Cardiff ruled that Mrs Vaughan was unfairly dismissed.

HIV all-clear

More than 1,100 people in Scotland who had to be retested for the AIDS virus were told yesterday that their original results had been accurate. They were among 26,000 to 30,000 people in Britain who had to be retested after equipment used to determine whether they had HIV was found to be faulty. In England and Wales retesting is still being carried out.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

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Edwardian documentary keeps it in the family

■ The Duke and Duchess of Windsor are the subjects of a new television documentary. Alan Hamilton reports

AN ENDURING belief that Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has harboured a lifelong grudge against the Duke of Windsor for proposing King George VI unwillingly to the throne, precipitating his untimely death, was challenged yesterday by her grandson, Prince Edward.

Queen Elizabeth, like other members of the Royal Family and household, had been put in an impossible position by her brother-in-law's decision to marry a divorcee, and was never able to acknowledge publicly the existence of the former Wallis Simpson in any way, the Prince said.

The Prince was attending the preview of a two-part documentary on the Windsors that he has written and presented, to be screened later this month. He answered questions on why the programmes almost entirely ignored the riddle of the 1936 abdication, which still intrigues historians: did the then Duchess of York, the future Queen Elizabeth, hate the upstart American?

Prince Edward said: "There are all sorts of stories involving the Queen Mother which I believe are factually inaccurate. She, like every other lady in the household at the time, was put in an utterly impossible position by Edward's decision."

"They were never going to be able publicly to acknowledge her in any way. The inevitable gulf that occurred

has been interpreted by people to say it was a deep-seated and personal matter which, from all that I have discovered, just isn't the case."

The Prince added: "None of the Royal Family was interviewed for these programmes; I did not feel it necessary to put them through that."

In the documentaries, Prince Edward defends his great-uncle against the charges of some historians that he was a Nazi sympathiser or even collaborator. In the first programme he says: "The Duke may have been awkward, selfish and intransigent but there is no evidence

that he would ever betray his country." He said he had found no evidence to support the theory that there had been an official cover-up over the Duke's supposed links with Nazi Germany.

The Prince, having had privileged access to George VI's private diaries, nevertheless makes it clear that the Duke's meeting with Hitler in 1937 caused dismay in London. King and government were furious that the Duke had undertaken the mission, albeit in the hope of persuading Hitler against war, without giving warning in order that he might have been better briefed and ad-

vised. But the Prince asserts that, for all his faults, the Duke of Windsor was utterly loyal and merely laughed when a Spanish emissary acting for the Nazi German regime suggested that Hitler would install him as puppet king of a conquered Britain, with a crown on his head and a swastika on his car.

The documentary details farcical attempts by German and Spanish agents to keep the Duke in Spain during the early years of the war, when he wanted to sail for the Bahamas to take up his post as governor.

Ramon Serrano Suner, Spanish Interior Minister in 1940-42, tells the Prince in the series: "Franco wanted to keep him here because we thought he would be an English king more favourably disposed to Spain. On the other hand Hitler thought he could manipulate him so he could instigate a revolution in England."

The Duke's obsession with minutiae played into the hands of the enemy agents. Unwilling to leave for the Bahamas without his best bed linen, he sent a maid to occupied France to retrieve the sheets from their Paris house. The maid was captured by German agents and held along with the pillowcases in the hope that the Windsors would miss their boat. They caught it.

□ Edward On Edward will be shown on ITV at 10.45pm on April 23 and 30.



Prince Edward and the Gerald Brochehurst portrait of Duchess of Windsor

THE true Edward's the Duke of veteran televis. Desmond Wilcox, ilton writes).

Three years ago Wilcox given a tour of the Windsor home in Paris, restored by present owner, Mohammed Fayed. Determined to make a film on the Windsors in exile, Wilcox approached Prince Edward with the suggestion that he might like to write and narrate the programme. The Prince immediately agreed.

"What has raised the status of this particular programme is that it is an important story from recent history, being shown on the sixtieth anniversary of the abdication," Prince Edward said yesterday.

The programme's real origins will do little to dispel criticism that Ardent Productions has ridden unashamedly on the back of its royal connections, despite the Prince's declarations when the television company was set up in 1993 that it would stand on its own two feet. He is joint managing director with Eben Foggitt, a former BBC TV drama executive. His next major project is a documentary about Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Other programmes have included an edition of the motoring programme Top Gear for the BBC and Annie's Bar, the poorly received Channel 4 comedy.

Son explains why he ended patient's pain

By Bill Frost

AN ELDERLY cancer victim died after her son gave her a massive dose of medical heroin "to ease her agony". Last night the man called for new laws to allow mercy killing as police investigated the death.

Alice Rowbottom, aged 80, was unable to eat, drink, move or speak without crying when her family saw her last Wednesday at North Manchester General Hospital. Her son Derek said: "I knew my mum would not leave me like that if I was in agony."

His mother as on a drip of diamorphine (pharmaceutical heroin) to counter the pain "so I kept pressing the button on the pump to administer more intravenous drugs. I just wanted to keep her out of pain and let her pass away peacefully. I don't think she even knew who I was at the end."

Mr Rowbottom, 44, from Ashton-under-Lyne, said: "The diamorphine was being pumped into her stomach through a box. I had seen another patient in a corridor with one of these boxes and he showed me the pump booster button. When no one was looking I pressed the button on my mum's box so the drug would go in as quickly as possible. I asked the nurse for more because she was still in pain, then I emptied the new supply as quickly as I could."

The nurse saw me doing it then asked me to stop, but I wouldn't. She called the sec-

urity men and the police and I didn't administer any more. My mum had taken all the diamorphine I could give her and she was completely rested, in no more pain."

The next day Mr Rowbottom was contacted by the hospital and told his mother's condition had deteriorated. She was dead by the time he arrived at her bedside.

"The following day the police came to see me and said they understood there was a high level of diamorphine in my mother's blood and they wanted to ask me about it. I told them, 'Look I know what I've done and I would do it again'. I know she would have done the same for me if I had been in her situation. I sat down with my mum and I said I'm sorry. I just wanted to help her. There was nothing else I could do."

"If what I have done helps change the law or helps anyone else, then that is good. I want the law changed to make things easier for patients and relatives of patients to end their suffering."

Mr Rowbottom's wife Jennifer said: "The law is crazy. I would want Derek to do the same thing for me in that situation."

A police spokesman said that Mrs Rowbottom's death had been reported to the coroner, who had asked for an investigation. No arrests had been made.



Alice Rowbottom and her son Derek: police called

Man who 'dispensed' cannabis goes free

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who gave away cannabis to chronically sick people in a Scottish fishing port escaped a jail sentence when the judge learnt of his care for his sick wife, Martinus Van der Lee, 50, who works with the disabled, was sentenced to three years' probation yesterday after he admitted supplying and possessing the drug.

Van der Lee started giving cannabis to his wife, Kathleen, who was seriously injured in a car accident five years ago, to ease her suffering. The crash had left her with a mental age of 8, violent shakes, a speech impediment and severe mood swings. Van der Lee claimed his wife's shaking stopped and the mood swings eased.

The former merchant navy chef was open about what he was doing and word spread in Peterhead, Grampian. He started giving the drug free to the sick and dying. It was used to alleviate cancer, multiple sclerosis and glaucoma.

His activities came to a halt when police caught him with 1.5kg of cannabis in his car. In total, he had £10,000 worth of the drug in his possession.

Yesterday in the High Court in Inverness, Van der Lee admitted illegal possession and being concerned in the supply of several kilos of cannabis throughout the Highlands and Islands.

The judge, Lord Johnston, told him: "This is a very difficult case. I can understand your motive and I follow what you were trying to do but I cannot condone it. Normally I would send you to prison but in these very special circumstances, and taking your wife into account, I believe what you did was more stupid than wicked."

Later, Van der Lee said he would continue rolling cigarettes for his wife but they would be made from tobacco. "This is the end of my involvement in drugs. I have been given the opportunity to stay with Kathleen and I won't let the judge down."

Payout to vandal overturned

By Tim Jones

A BUSINESSMAN who defended his country home against attack by stone-throwing youths from a nearby council estate had his conviction for common assault and criminal damage overturned yesterday.

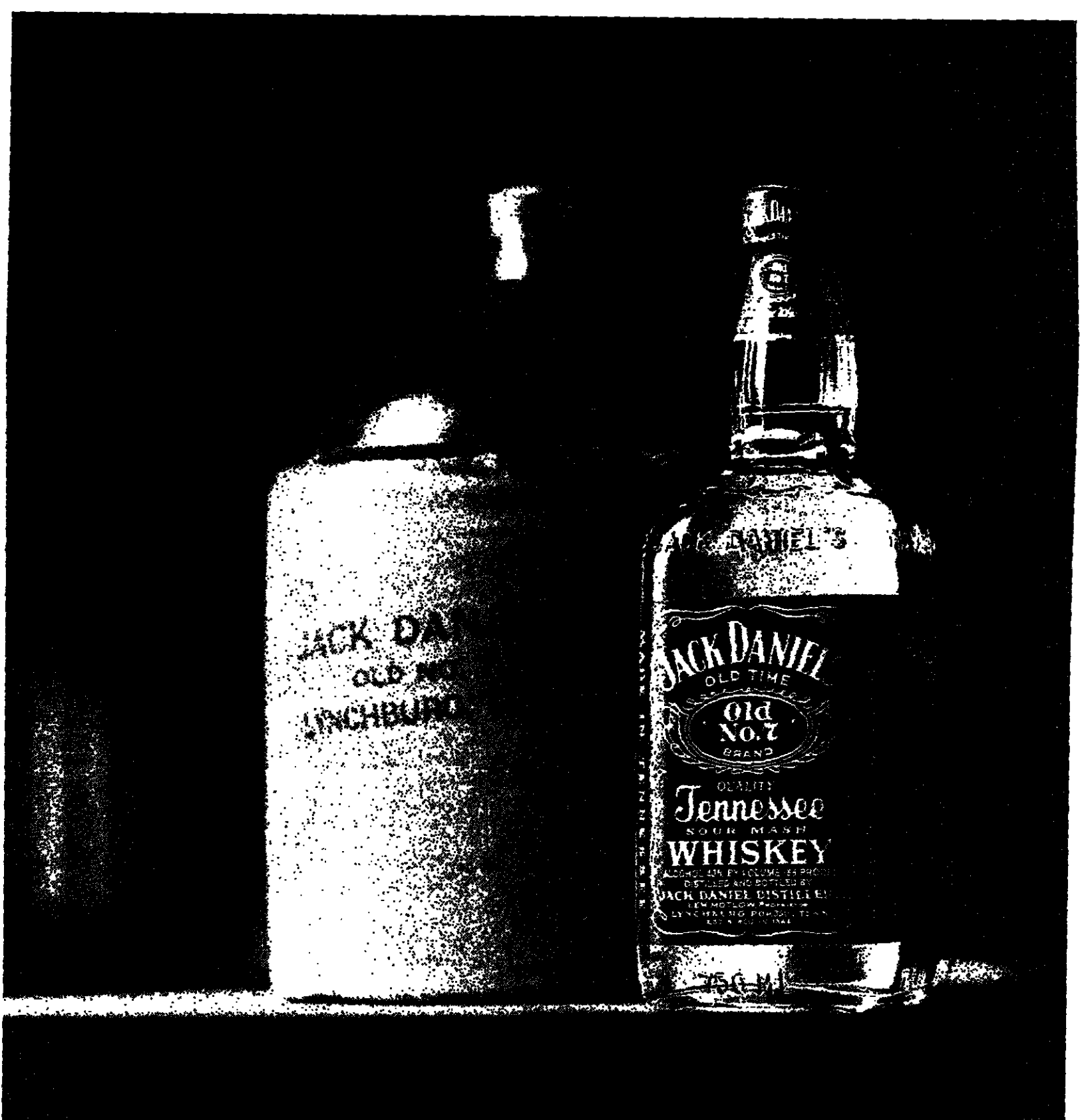
David Verney, 54, jumped into his Range Rover and drove out of his moated home to chase two youths after he heard the sound of breaking glass in his greenhouse, Gloucester Crown Court was told. Mr Verney, a property developer from Uckington, near Cheltenham, threatened

to report the boys to the police but instead found himself in front of Colford magistrates in January. They gave him an absolute discharge, but ordered him to pay costs of £200 and £40 compensation to one of the boys to replace a ripped football shirt.

Mr Verney, whose wife Barbara is a magistrate at Cheltenham, won his appeal against conviction when Michael de Navarro, QC, the Recorder, stopped the case. He said that Wayne O'Shea, 14, the alleged victim, and another boy, aged 13, had given conflicting evidence on which no court could convict.

He awarded Mr Verney costs for the magistrates' court and appeal hearings.

The court was told that Mr Verney, a former army and Gloucester county rugby player, caught up with the boys, grabbed one by his shirt, marched him across to another group and demanded to know the names of the others. A police officer to whom the youths complained said that she went to Mr Verney's home but could find no damage to his greenhouse. She described his attitude as obnoxious. Later, another officer found two broken panes and some stones.



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY



The Ostrich Monarch

She has ruled for as long as most of us can remember, yet we know her scarcely at all. As the queen approaches 70, the award-winning writer William Shawcross investigates the enigma at the heart of Britain

News Review — The Sunday Times tomorrow

Schools may reject pupils if parents oppose discipline

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLS are to be allowed to turn down pupils whose parents refuse to accept policies on discipline, Gillian Shephard said yesterday.

The Education and Employment Secretary is also planning legislation in the autumn to give schools the same powers as the police to detain children. This would end the right of parents to stop schools from using detention beyond school hours as a punishment for unruly children.

Mrs Shephard, in a speech to the annual conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers in Glasgow, promised laws to force parents to take more responsibility for the behaviour of their children. There would be sharper penalties for the parents of persistent truants, and those whose children have been expelled twice could lose their right to choose a school.

She refused to say what the penalties for parents of truants

might be, but government advisers have called recently for parents to be fined or lose state benefits if they cannot teach their children to behave.

"Some of these measures will be possible through new guidance," she said. "In other areas legislation will be necessary and we will provide it."

The Labour Party said last week that it would allow schools to suspend pupils for a term. In an apparent attempt to match this pledge, Mrs Shephard indicated that she would allow schools to exclude pupils for 45 days at a time instead of the current maximum of 15 days a term.

She said: "Without an orderly atmosphere in the classroom, effective teaching and learning cannot take place. Teachers should not have to put up with violent pupils who disrupt lessons."

Later she said: "We need to look at linking parents' wishes with requirements for good, acceptable behaviour. The

majority of parents are supportive to schools and their children, but where they are not there needs to be a reminder of their responsibilities."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the union, welcomed the recent attention to school discipline from Labour and the Conservatives but said that tougher measures were needed years ago. Last year a survey found that as many as 15,000 youngsters were being expelled every year.

The union favours more pupil referral units, or "sin-bins", to rid classrooms of unruly children. "Everyone asserts the child's right to an education, but I would challenge that," Mr de Gruchy said. "If they break their contract with a school they should forfeit that right. No one wants to send these children into limbo, but I do not want my members and the majority of children to remain in hell because of disruptive pupils."



Inmates at Armley prison in Leeds slopping out for the last time. One said: "We've got a lot more dignity now"

From April you must get into this routine

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How to avoid penalties

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Read the leaflet in your next tax return

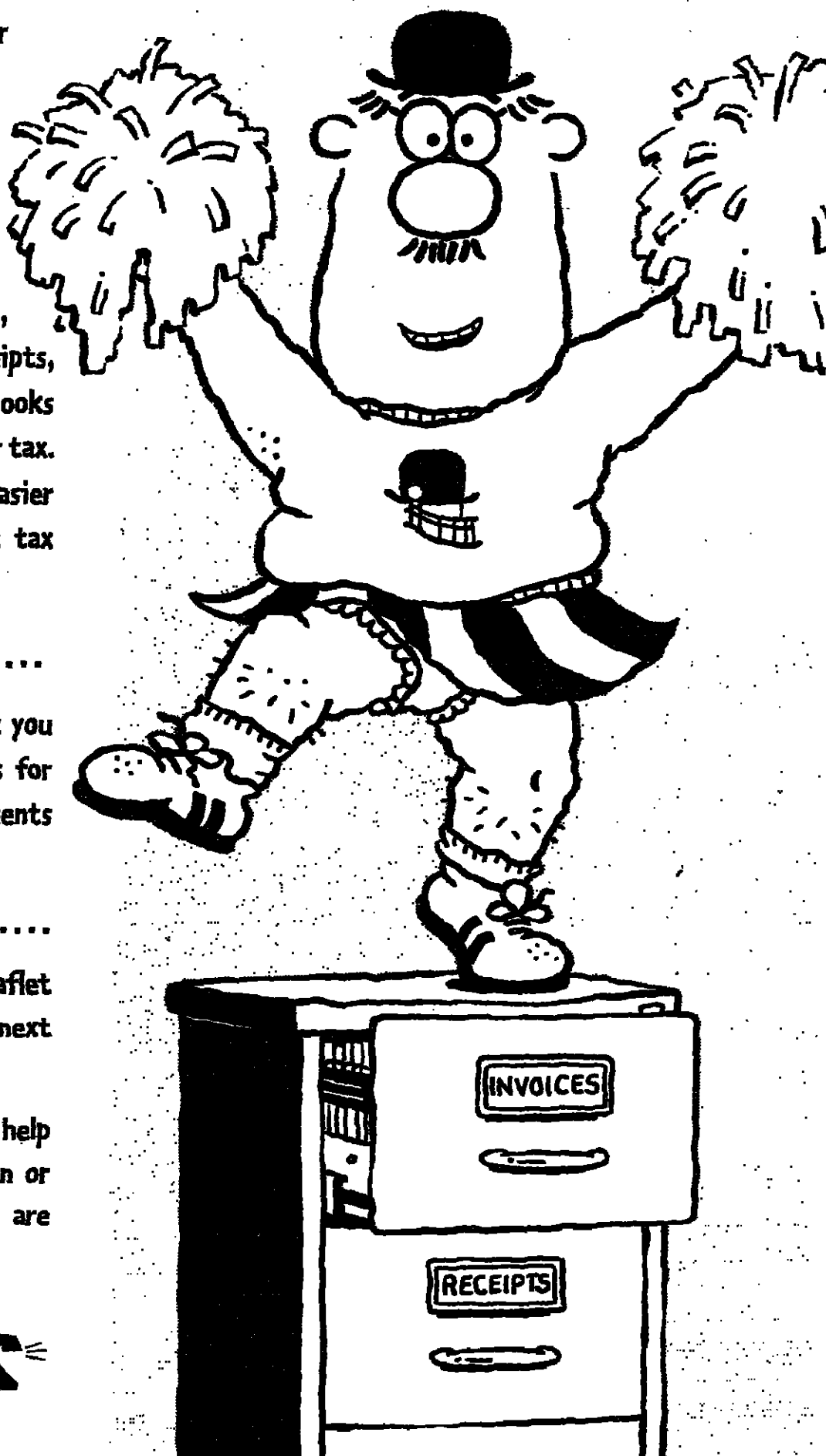
To find out more, look out for the special leaflet on Self Assessment we've included with your next tax return.

We've also prepared free information guides to help you. If you'd like copies just send us the coupon or telephone our special number anytime. (All calls are charged at the local rate.)

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Inmates slop out for the last time

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

INMATES at Armley jail ended a prison ritual yesterday when they slopped out for the last time.

Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, was in the Leeds jail to mark the completion of a £60 million programme to install sanitation in cells in 135 jails in England and Wales.

The drive to end slopping out, a target of penal reformers, was only six weeks short of a deadline recommended by Lord Woolf in 1991. Until he recommended speedy action to end the practice, the Home Office had not expected slopping out to end in jails until the next century.

Glenn, an Armley inmate, said integral sanitation had improved morale for everyone. He added: "Before, you had to make sure you had been to the toilet before banging up time because after that you had to use the bucket and slop out with everyone else the

next morning. Now we've got our own toilet and sink. It's much cleaner and we've got a lot more dignity."

Since 1991 more than 20,000 toilets and washbasins have been installed in 96 institutions. Some cells at Armley have both. In other parts of the jail three cells have been turned into two with a bathroom in the centre.

Miss Widdecombe said the prison service had "reached a milestone in history". She added: "One of the prisoners just said slopping out is prehistoric and he is quite right."

Ironically Victorian prisons had cell sanitation but much of it was ripped out this century to provide more space for prisoners. Stephen Shaw, of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "They missed their target by six weeks but this is still a remarkable achievement."

Victim's pain, page 8

Overhaul of mental care urged by charity

By ADRIAN LEE

THE mental health charity SANE yesterday called for an overhaul of community care legislation after a series of crimes involving former patients. The Mental Health Act needed updating to protect patients and the public, Marjorie Wallace, the charity's chief executive, said.

Far too many mistakes were being made under the current laws, introduced 13 years ago, Ms Wallace said. SANE is seeking new criteria on the discharge of mentally ill patients, and more involvement in the process for their families. The group also wants consideration given to the feelings of victims.

Ms Wallace said: "Because of all the headline cases involving a minority of violent patients, everyone who is mentally ill is finding it harder to be accepted into the community."

SANE, which handles 1,000 telephone calls a week from people seeking help, is to extend its support service and employ a lawyer on cases. It will write to every MP to seek support for its campaign.

Ms Wallace said that in the past year there had been 24 mishandled cases that had resulted in inquiries.

Lawyers told to cut down on sentences

By PETER FOSTER

THE legal profession, master of the sub-clause and the 60-word sentence, was told to get to the point yesterday by the Plain English Campaign. It condemned words such as "aforementioned" and "hereinafter" as old-fashioned and cumbersome.

Christie Maher, the campaign's director, said: "Lawyers are frightened to say what they mean. People need to be able to understand what has been written on their behalf. It's nonsense to say that everything has to be written in fancy English."

The campaign has produced a book, *Language on Trial*, to help lawyers to overcome the urge to write jargon. "With respect to 'shrinks' to 'about', 'for the purpose of' becomes 'to' and 'at this point in time' is 'now'."

Richard Thomas, director of public policy at the international law firm Clifford Chance, said that lawyers were no longer quite the windbags they once were. However, he added: "Too many lawyers write to impress others inside the profession. Good legal writing should not look as if it is written by a lawyer at all."

Steady on, take a drink

By NICK NUTTALL

IT MAY not be news to some darts and snooker players, but scientists have found that alcohol helps to steady the hand.

Researchers from Birmingham and Edinburgh universities suggest that up to four units of alcohol is the magic amount for keeping hand tremors under control — although "next morning someone might shake more than before".

The findings, disclosed at the Edinburgh Science Festival, suggested that as an alternative, teetotalers could

put their hands under running water from the cold tap. This had improved the aim of Olympic pistol shooters, and helped to improve life for people suffering from diseases such as Parkinson's.

The study measured the hand tremors of thousands of people. In religious groups, Church of Scotland ministers were found to suffer more than nuns or Muslims.

Medical students and general practitioners emerged as the slice of the population with the shakiest hands. Journalists and eye surgeons, thankfully, had low tremor scores.

John Prescott claims to be upwardly mobile. Eight social commentators measure his progress

Labouring the point: just what is a class act?

John Prescott, the no-nonsense voice of the Labour Party, yesterday announced his defection to the middle classes. In an unguarded moment he told Radio 4's Today programme: "I can tell you, I'm pretty middle class." Yesterday *The Times*

endeavoured to find out just where Mr Prescott, former merchant navy steward, stood on the social scale. We asked academics, social commentators and advertising gurus to define class differences and assess Mr Prescott's position.

BEING working class is no longer a badge of honour in Labour Party politics, according to Ben Pinnett, Professor of Politics at Birkbeck College and biographer of Harold Wilson. "Once Labour MPs could not resist mentioning their grandparents' working-class roots. But the move away from that is symptomatic of the move towards American-style politics. In America the middle-class is the equivalent of our working class."

Professor A.H. Halsey, author of *Social Class and Educational Opportunity*, said: "Of course John Prescott is middle class. You have to

define class by people's present position. But that doesn't mean that he can forget that his origins lie somewhere else. The same applies to about a third of the population. We need a more subtle definition of class which recognises that duality."

One Labour MP, at least, is still proud to be working class. Ken Purchase, a former tool-maker and now MP for Wolverhampton North East, said: "Maybe not by income, but by attitude I am definitely working class."

Dame Barbara Cartland was once asked in a radio interview if she thought class

barriers were breaking down. "Of course they are, my dear," she replied. "Otherwise I wouldn't be talking to you." Yesterday she said: "Nobody cares about class any more. You can be anything you like these days. I think it is dreadful because people have such appalling manners."

"As far as I am concerned someone of good class is someone who keeps their word, is charming and behaves like a gentleman. But England is so rude. We have lost the majesty of smartness, people are so scruffy and even the Royal Family are not as royal as they might be."

She said she still believed herself "very much upper class". Her household addresses her with her title.

Her fellow novelist, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, said: "I have always thought John Prescott to be rather upper class, with his Jaguars, double-breasted suits and holidays in Barbados. I think it is wonderful he has said this. Next thing he will announce he is voting Conservative."

Tony Parsons, presenter of the BBC2 programme *Parsons On Class*, said: "It just proves that there is no longer any shame in admitting you are middle class. If John Prescott claimed to be working class it wouldn't make him a champi-

on of the people, it would make him a hypocrite.

"He has two homes and earns nearly £40,000 a year: he is middle class. The class you were born into isn't necessarily where you stay. The middle class covers such a broad spectrum now, from Mr Patel at the corner shop to a barrister."

Michael Young, a sociologist and director of the Institute of Community Studies, said: "Mr Prescott would not be regarded by many as pukka middle class because he was born into a working-class family, but under tradi-

tional guidelines, since he was not a manual worker, he could call himself middle class.

"Forty years ago Labour MPs would have been stressing their working classness. Now things have moved the other way and they are more inclined to call themselves middle class."

"Class was always something that was in people's minds. It is a subjective notion and if someone says they are working or middle class who is going to say otherwise?"

Generally the working and middle classes were defined by manual and non-manual

jobs, but in the 1950s it was the working classes who saw themselves as the real workers, the bedrock of the country. They were proud of it and actually saw themselves as superior to non-manual workers.

"Over the past few decades there has been a decline in the number of manual jobs and an increase in jobs in the service industry which has eroded boundaries and made the picture more confused. People might be on very low incomes — such as parsons — but they would still categorise themselves as middle class, so

we cannot use pay as a yardstick. It comes down to what people think they are."

Ivor Spencer, who runs a school for butlers, said: "The class system certainly exists and we will never have a classless society in Britain. How ever much money you have there are still clubs you can't get into. There is a them-and-us situation."

He said that he knew people, with "new money", who employed a butler to give the appearance of belonging to a higher class. "You can't buy class, it is something you are born into."

Education is the key to social position

By Stephen Farrell

ADVERTISERS, famous for their division of the population into alphabetic and numeric classes, would summarise John Prescott as an aspirer.

"Middle-class is broadly meaningless," said Paul Tivy, group chief executive of the advertising agency Bates Dorland. "The most important determinant of behaviour is educational background rather than disposable income."

"Yes, we would classify him [John Prescott] as middle-class by his purchasing habits, his house and car and the fact that he persisted with his education. But intuitively I would have thought, before today, he would shudder at the idea of being middle class."

John Prescott epitomises the good old-fashioned Labour Party Socialist in a party more and more overtly middle class under Tony Blair.

Social class definitions:

A Professionals: chartered people; high-ranking service people.
B Those with a large amount of responsibility, such as middle management, lecturers.
C1 All others doing non-manual jobs, such as nurses and police sergeants.
C2 Skilled manual workers who served apprenticeships.
D Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers, labourers.
E Those of lowest levels of subsistence, such as pensioners and the unemployed.



Beer bottles to the fore, John and Pauline Prescott enjoying the glitz of a comedy awards presentation evening



The Prescotts' constituency house in Hull

The 11-plus failure who worked his way up decks

JOHN PRESCOTT was the eldest of five children and attended Brinsworth Primary School, Rotherham.

The family lived in rented accommodation until he was 11 when his parents bought their first home, which was in Chester.

After leaving school in 1953 he worked as a trainee chef in hotels for two years, joined the Labour Party in 1956 and went to work on passenger shipping lines scrubbing decks in 1955 before becoming a steward.

When he returned to dry

land he was sponsored by Cheshire County Council to study for a diploma in economics and politics at Ruskin College, Oxford. He went on to Hull University where he gained a BSc in economics. He became an MP in 1970, sponsored by the National Union of Seamen.

The Deputy Labour leader had left school without any qualifications. He went to a secondary modern in Ellesmere Port, having failed the 11-plus.

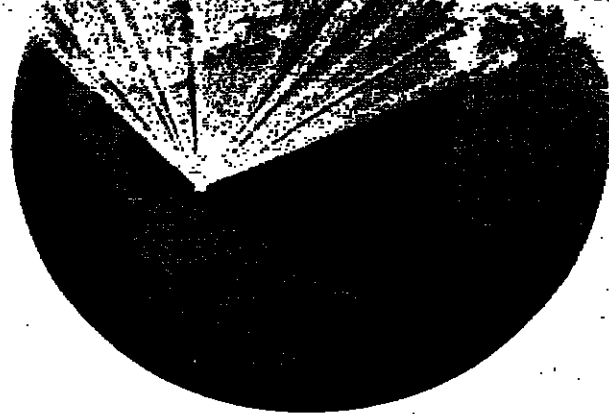
His two sisters and two brothers, who were younger,

all went to grammar school. Their mother Phyllis, who has remarried and is a Labour party member, taught needlework.

Mr Prescott bought his house near the village of Sutton for £28,000 in the early 1970s but it is now valued at around £100,000.

He drives a second-hand Daimler, spends most of his holidays in the Caribbean, with his wife Pauline, a former hairdresser, whom he married in 1961. She is a full-time housewife and MP's wife. They have two sons.

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Psychological Society conference told of first study into long-term effects of accident on children

Suicide and illness haunt survivors of sea disaster

REPORTS BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

CHILDREN who survived a sea disaster in Greece eight years ago are more likely to have considered suicide or suffered mental illness than classmates who remained in Britain, according to one of the largest studies of adolescent disaster survivors.

Of 400 pupils rescued from *SS Jupiter*, a cruise ship that sank in a Greek harbour in 1988, more than two thirds have suffered mental illness and 52 per cent had post-traumatic stress disorder, the British Psychological Society annual conference in Brighton was told yesterday. The schoolwork of survivors suffered and they were three times more likely than their peers to become depressed. One survivor took her life and 9 per cent of her companions have attempted suicide.

The Institute of Psychiatry study shows for the first time the long-term effects of such a disaster on children. The findings emerged in interviews

with survivors, now in their early twenties, and a group of their peers.

Stephanie Boyle, a researcher at the Institute of Psychology, London, said: "A lot of mothers reported 'a child of mine went away and I got back an adult'. The children returned with a feeling that the world was dangerous and serious. They were much more cynical and worldly wise. The loss of innocence is quite notable because they were relatively young."

Survivors told researchers: "I don't really trust anybody any more, I don't believe what people tell me." Dominic O'Ryan, Ms Boyle's colleague, said: "Some no longer plan for the future because they feel the future can be cut short."

The *SS Jupiter* had just set sail from Piraeus harbour with nearly 400 English children aged 14 and 15 on board for a week-long educational cruise. The liner was rammed

amidships by the freighter

DEPRESSION

Adige, rapidly took on water and sank within 40 minutes. Four people died — a pupil and teacher from Birmingham and two Greek seamen. The Medical Research Council is paying £300,000 for three years of research into the long-term effects on survivors.

Although all the children were offered counselling, fewer than a fifth accepted. Of 158 interviewed, 14 per cent had suffered post-traumatic stress disorder with symptoms including flashbacks, panic attacks and avoidance of anything related to the trauma.

Julie Nurrish, a researcher, said results showed a delay of a year or more in the academic studies of those survivors in higher education. "They are not fulfilling their potential."

□ The police misunderstood the rave culture, believing ravers to be young innocent victims rather than willing participants, according to

Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education psychologists who interviewed four police officers and four ravers. The police see others involved with the rave scene as largely consisting of drug dealers and those who organise and otherwise make a profit from ravers.

Ravers see themselves as rational, acting through choice but outside mainstream society, which they perceived as hostile and ignorant of rave. "This is important because, to police raves in an effective and humane manner, the police need to understand the culture they are dealing with," the researchers said.

□ Serial killers usually murder their first victim close to home, psychologists from Liverpool University said. "There is a certain amount of impulse involved in all these crimes, even the most deliberate." More serial criminals have burglary on their records than sexual crimes.

Victim's pain, page 8

Survivors from the *SS Jupiter* leaving a rescue ship

Today's Caveman pays high price for macho style

MALES with high levels of testosterone fare worse at school, often opt for a life of crime and are more likely to have a broken marriage by the age of 40. Psychologists have found that chauvinism, sexism and aggression — Caveman values — are thriving in Britain just as they flourished in primitive societies.

Caveman values are more prominent among delinquents, rapists and men who drink and drive, use alcohol and drugs, have more sex but use fewer condoms and are unsympathetic to women who are victims of sexual aggression.

There are still plenty of New Men, however, who agree that "there is too much emphasis on men being tough", "women do not necessarily go for macho-looking males" and "a romantic dinner with your partner is preferable to drinking with the lads".

New Man is probably a student nurse while Caveman is in a job with the fire brigade and the Army. New Man works in an office, in management, or studies psychology, nursing, sociology or social studies. As men get older, they mellow from Caveman into New Man, possibly as a result of education, mixing with women and realising that, in modern society, Caveman values are antisocial and linked to failure.

Caveman believes that it is necessary to be physically and emotionally tough to achieve manhood, which includes not backing away from physical confrontation, not crying, withstanding pain without complaint, approval of male initiation ceremonies and dis-

MALE VALUES

approval of men who fail to meet these requirements.

Research by the University of Central Lancashire found significant numbers of men approved of statements such as "real men don't give up because of fear," and "men who take part in yoga and ballet deserve to be ridiculed". They also agreed that "wife-swapping is fine as long as both men agree", and "real men don't back away from bar-room confrontations".

John Archer, an evolutionary psychologist from the university, told the conference: "They all reflect the notion that manhood is an acquired, rather than an ascribed, status which must be earned by courageous action." His study involved 600 men aged 17 to 45 from the Preston area of Lancashire.

Cavemen are most prevalent in the Army, among the unemployed, amateur soccer players and manual workers including joiners, labourers and drivers. Caveman values were found in uniformed jobs such as the fire brigade, automobile breakdown services and police, engineering and building and masculine sports including American football, rugby and weight training.

Cavemen show an interest in aggressive sports, enjoy danger, view women as sex objects and believe men should be able to hold their drink. "It can be argued that at the root of all this is the notion of proving to others and ones self that you are hard and tough," Dr Archer said.

Ostracism is feared more than beating

BEING sent to Coventry is worse for children than being physically bullied, according to a study of 200 junior and secondary school pupils aged 8 to 12. Those who were psychologically excluded by their peers felt more depressed, lonely, anxious, dissatisfied and worthless than those who were being beaten. Children and their teachers see physical victimisation as the most harmful form of bullying but it may have fewer long-lasting effects, according to psychologists from Keele University.

Studies have shown that children who were socially excluded by their classmates grow up to be depressed, anxious and shy. Boys thought the worst type of bullying was being shunned

BULLYING

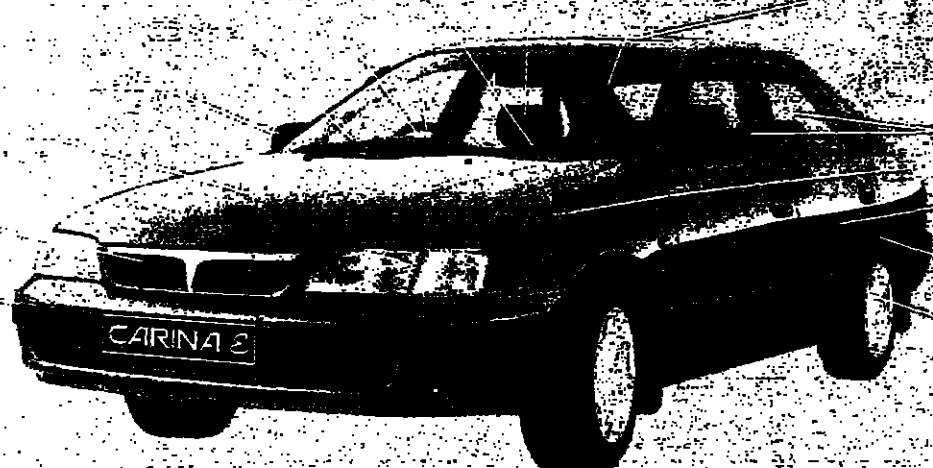
by other children while girls thought it was being physically attacked.

Girl bullies tended to prefer psychological techniques against their victims, including sneaking behind their backs, methods that boys also adopted as they grew out of punching and kicking each other.

A tenth of children in the study in North Staffordshire were being bullied.

□ Domestic violence can be predicted by rainfall, according to a study of three years of records from London. Non-domestic violence increases when the weather is warmer, psychologists from Nottingham University discovered.

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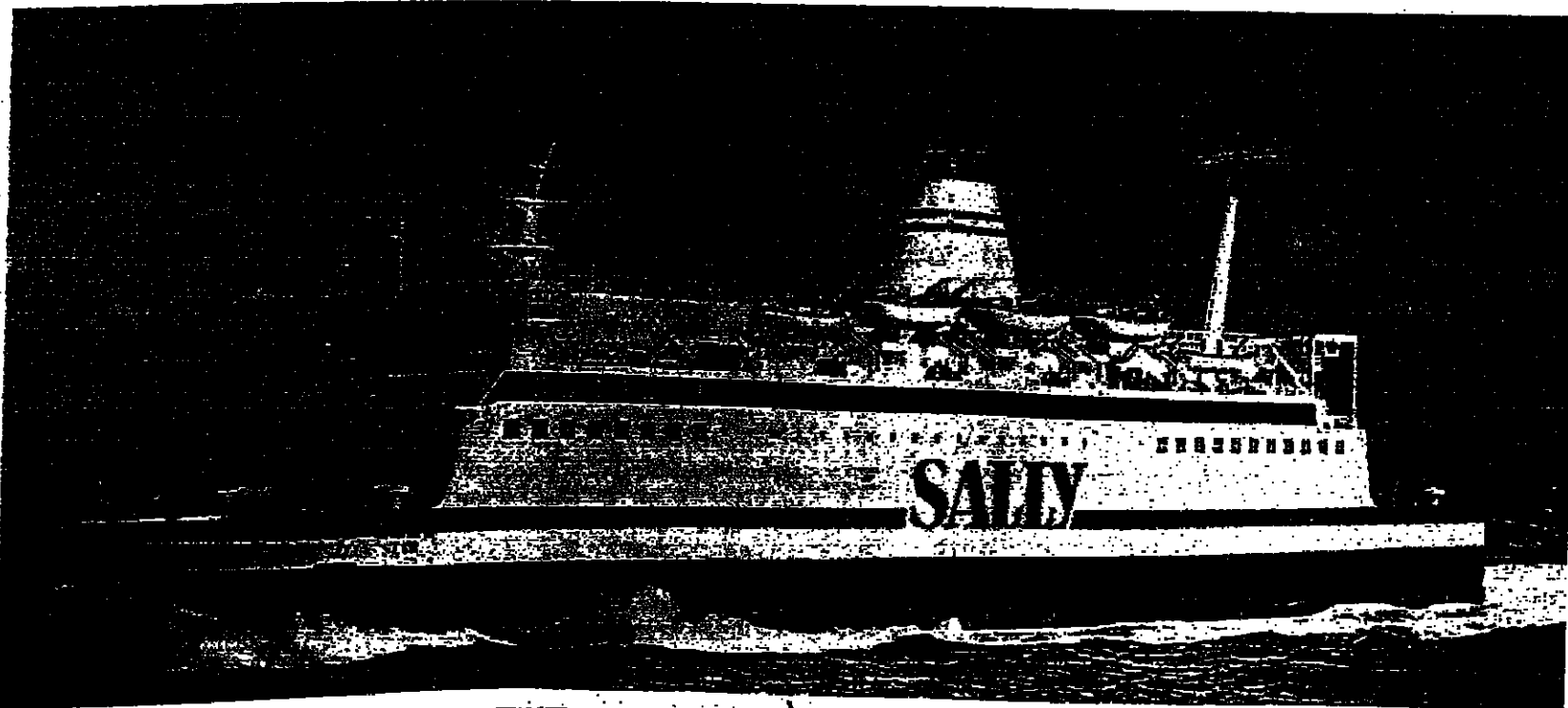
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Howard's proposals criticised

Taylor rejects plan to link jail term and victim's pain

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chief Justice launched a fresh attack on Michael Howard's sentencing proposals yesterday, condemning minimum jail terms as an unwelcome American import. Lord Taylor of Gossforth also spoke against the belief that ever-longer prison sentences would be better for the public and victims of crime.

Lord Taylor unveiled his own proposal to reassure victims of crime. He said that the judiciary should consider the victims' interests when imposing sentences on convicted criminals.

He said police should provide prosecutors with a report of the impact of crimes on the lives of the victims. The prosecution would then be able to put the effects of the crime to the judge for consideration before sentences were passed.

However, Lord Taylor said that the suffering of victims could not be allowed to dictate the length of sentences. He added that it was "quite wrong" to believe that longer and longer sentences would somehow be better for the public and would help to curb crime.

He told the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4: "The notion that if you sentence longer and longer and longer it's going to be better and better for the public is quite wrong. The public has an interest in seeing that people are rehabilitated and, of course, they should



Lord Taylor: condemned ever longer sentences

be punished appropriately. "But the idea that because a particular victim has suffered very severe injuries, let us say, there must be absolutely comparable injury or detention on the perpetrator is, I think, inappropriate."

Later, in his first public comments since a government White Paper announced minimum sentences for repeat burglars and drug dealers and automatic life sentences for second-time sex and violent offenders, the Lord Chief Justice reopened the argument between the judiciary and the Home Secretary over sentencing.

He described minimum sentences, a key part of the Government's plans to deal with offenders who commit several domestic burglaries and dealers in Class A drugs, as an "importation from the American legal system which we can well do without."

Although his speech to a Victim Support event in his

native Newcastle upon Tyne made no mention of Mr Howard, it was clear that the Home Secretary was his target.

He said that to treat crime solely from the point of view of victims risked looking at the system "through the wrong end of the telescope". Lord Taylor spoke against making the "highly fashionable error" of viewing the criminal justice system primarily as a matter of sentencing.

The typical reaction of most of the population was that sentences were too lenient. Lord Taylor said. A recent survey by the Nuffield Foundation had found that 50 per cent or fewer convicted rapists were sent to prison, when in fact the correct figure was 91 per cent.

With the Government and the judiciary preparing to argue the merits of the White Paper proposals, Lord Taylor conceded that sentencing was a matter of acute public concern. He welcomed debate on the subject as entirely healthy in a mature democracy, while emphasising that it should be an "informed" argument.

Mr Howard's White Paper predicts that 12 jails will have to be built to cope with the minimum 10,000 increase in prison population resulting from his tough new sentences. Lord Taylor told his audience that "in the current stampede to build new prisons", he hoped the continued funding for Victim Support would not be forgotten by the Government.



The card was criticised for encouraging drunkenness

£3,000 for the first card of Christmas

By OLIVER AUGUST

A PROOF copy of the world's first Christmas card fetched £2,990 at auction yesterday. An American collector bought the 1843 card, which sparked an industry worth £300 million last year.

It shows three generations toasting the health of an absent friend, a scene criticised by some Victorians for encouraging drunkenness. The message reads: "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You."

The card was designed by John Calcutt Horsley for the reformer and educationist Sir Henry Cole. Sir Henry had 1,000 copies printed to send to family and friends.

He kept only two proof copies. In 1965 he sent one to his daughter Henrietta and the other, inscribed "The first Christmas card", to Lady Dorothy Nevill, who was related to Horace Walpole.

Lady Dorothy, a distinguished hostess, author, gardener, painter and collector, died in 1913. The card was among a collection of her memorabilia put up for sale yesterday at Christie's by a descendant.

Also sold were two locks of hair from the head and beard of Edward IV. An American buyer paid £517 for the two locks, taken from the king when his tomb in Windsor was opened in 1789.

A unique block of ten Penny Black stamps, ranked among the world's top ten rarities, is being offered for sale at £300,000. The block was issued on May 6, 1840, the date of the introduction of stamps. It will be the centrepiece of the Stamp '96 Exhibition at Wembley Conference Centre this month. The sale is being handled by Stanley Gibbons.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Inquiry into fatal slide accident

The death of a three-year-old who caught her neck between the top of a slide and a metal support has prompted an urgent investigation into the slide's safety. Amy Grieson died on Monday, six days after the incident.

Her mother, Kirsty Docking, 24, of Newcastle upon Tyne, called on the Early Learning Centre to stop selling its large slide, saying it was unsafe because the support bars were immovable. Ian Duncan, the firm's chief executive, said he was urgently seeking more information about the incident before deciding whether to withdraw the model.

Polar freeze-out

Pen Hadow, from Dartmoor, abandoned his attempt to walk solo to the North Pole from Ward Hunt Island, Canada, after breaking a ski and a ski-pole six days into his 486-mile trek. An aircraft is to fly him off the ice cap.

Actress banned

Letitia Dean, the former *EastEnders* star, was fined £750 with £50 costs and banned from driving for 30 months by Tower Bridge magistrates after she admitted driving her sports car on March 1 while double the legal alcohol limit.

Attacker foiled

A woman whose car broke down in north London used an aerosol oil spray to fend off a man who attacked her with a knife. He stabbed her arm and hands but fled when she sprayed WD-40 in his face.

Drap of ice

A 60lb block of ice that fell 10,000ft from an aeroplane embedded itself in the ground by the home of Gerald and Jean Redfern in Huddersfield, Derbyshire, under the Manchester airport flightpath.

Beef blocked

The Ministry of Defence is to withdraw ration packs from an Anglo-American exercise in North Carolina because they might contain products that could be construed as breaching the ban on beef exports.

Ferry grounded

The Belgian-owned North Sea car ferry *Prins Filip* ran aground outside the entrance to Ramsgate harbour early yesterday morning, leaving 335 passengers stranded for three hours while the tide rose.

Clean away

Thieves have stolen an outdoor lavatory being exhibited by a Russian at an art show in Limerick. Irish police fear the lavatory, which has been shown around the world, may have been taken for firewood.

Credo

Death holds no sting when we serve our God

Richard Harries

There is a devastating poem by Wilfred Owen, whose first verse reads:

"O Jesus Christ!" one fellow sighed. And knelt, and bowed, tho' not in prayer, and died. And the bullets sang "In Vain". Machine guns chuckled "Vain". Big guns guffawed "In Vain".

The refrain that all is in vain runs through the rest of the poem. It is not only the prayers of soldiers but their cries to their parents and their calling out to their loved ones that are all equally useless. It is a pessimism as bleak as that in the

good that we are able to do will be gathered up and preserved for all eternity.

When these words are read at funeral services, as they so often are, few will be able to share Paul's conviction about the Resurrection of the Dead, which is the theme of this whole chapter. For we know that the body decomposes and becomes part of the whole cycle of nature. We cannot imagine ourselves climbing out of graves like figures in a Stanley Spencer painting.

What we can believe as Christians, however, is that though the darkness may close in on us at death, God's knowledge of us does not end at that point. We remain known in his mind and cherished in his heart.

We have very little idea who we really are. Am I my true self at nine, 10, 30 or 99? Only God knows. And what God knows, our true self, will be reformed or re-dressed in a manner appropriate to eternity. For Christ, is risen and nothing can destroy or take away from our life lived in him.

Much, perhaps most of what we think important about ourselves, will no doubt drop away, being of little significance in the light of the standards of the Kingdom where the last shall be first and the first shall be last.

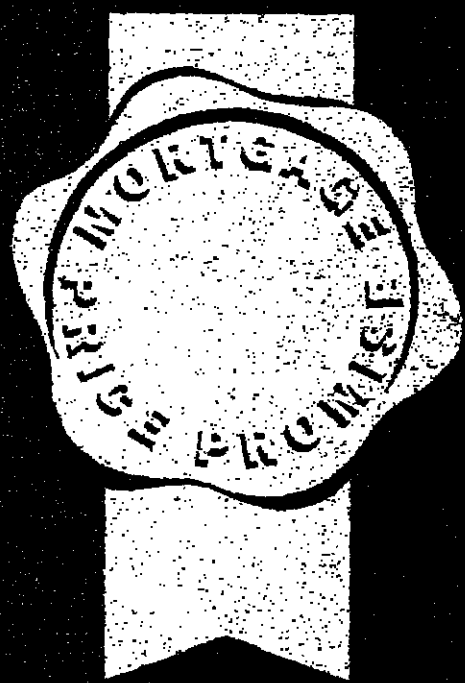
But all that we do "in the Lord", that is work that is in accord with his will of love, all that is in union with Christ through faith and prayer, all this has a future in God. We have absolutely no idea about the conditions in which this hope will be realised, though our best human experiences might give us some guesses, but this hope is fundamental to Christian teaching. We should give ourselves permission to be liberated by it, so we may indeed abound in the work of the Lord.

□ The Right Rev Richard Harries is Bishop of Oxford.

At Your Service
Weekend, page 13

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Prescott challenges Major to have 'the courage to face Labour' and let the nation decide now

Tories stunned by huge margin of by-election defeat

By JAMES LANDALE AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE Conservatives had braced themselves for defeat in the Staffordshire South East by-election, but the margin of defeat — 13,762 votes — has shaken the party.

The victory by Labour's Brian Jenkins, who captured the seat with a swing of 22 per cent, delighted John Prescott, the party's deputy leader, who yesterday challenged John Major to hold an immediate general election.

The Tories were unprepared for the scale of their defeat. During the final days of canvassing, Jimmy James, the Tory candidate, was telling all listeners that victory was within reach; but his party colleagues were briefing journalists to expect a defeat of about 5,000 votes.

By the eve of polling, the defeatist message appeared to have filtered through to Mr James, when he emphasised that the seat held by his party since 1983 should not be considered a Tory heartland but a marginal.

The defeat was especially galling as the Tories had fielded one of the most impressive candidates of recent by-elections and had fought the strongest contest since the last general election. Alan Duncan, the Tory MP for Rutland and Melton, proved a ferociously energetic "minder" to Mr James and was tireless in giving Labour as tough a



Jenkins and grandchild Emmeline Saunders

contest on the ground as they have had in recent clashes with the Conservatives.

But while there was less evidence of the bitterness towards the Government that had dominated other recent by-elections, Labour strategists were confident throughout that Conservative voters were switching in droves to back Tony Blair's party.

Mr Jenkins may not have been the most sparkling campaigner, but he was well known as leader of Tamworth Borough Council and was supported by a cavalcade of national Labour politicians, including Mr Blair, who made three visits to the constituency.

Yesterday his deputy was celebrating with party workers in the Midlands constituency. "If the Tories want to, the best way of testing [their support] is to have a general election," Mr Prescott said.

"Has the Prime Minister got the courage to face us? If he thinks he is going to win a general election, let's have it. It's up to him and we are ready and waiting."

He said the constituency's voters had caught the national mood: "The people of south-east Staffordshire said, 'We don't believe you anymore. We've had enough. We feel betrayed and it's time you were out.'"

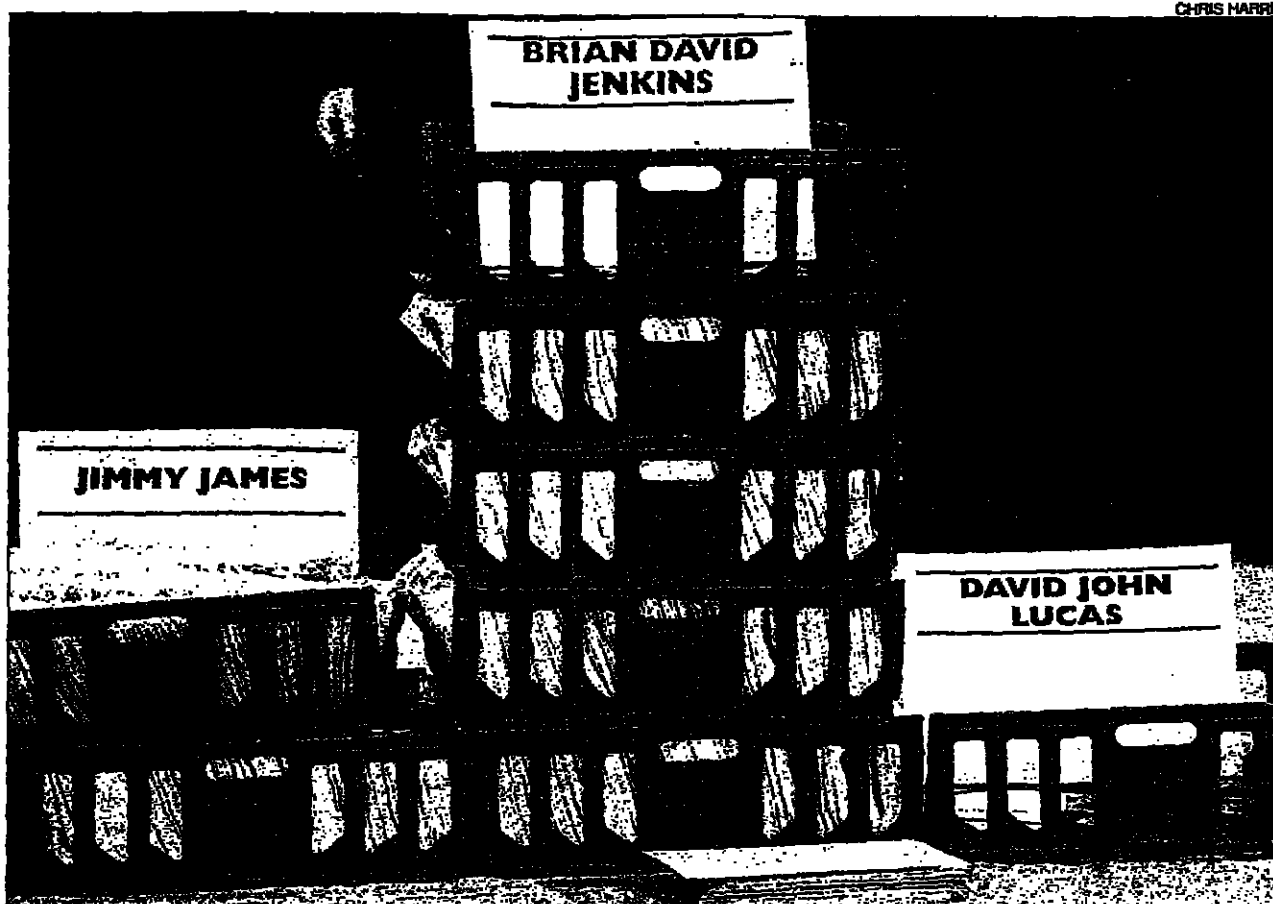
Mr Jenkins said yesterday that the 13,000-plus majority had been beyond even his most optimistic assessment.

"The Tories can use as many excuses and as many reasons as possible," he said. "The simple fact is that they got thumped by the people."

However, Mr James blamed his defeat on several factors: Liberal supporters using a protest vote to back Labour, many Tory voters staying at home, and the "feel-good" factor not yet reaching people's pockets. He also pointed out that the defeat was not as bad as the nearby Dudley West by-election in 1994.

"I thought we had a good chance of winning this seat," he said. "I am obviously disappointed but I respect the decision of the voters. I think the new seat of Tamworth is extremely winnable at the next general election."

John Redwood, page 20
Leading article and
Letters, page 21



The gap between Labour's Brian Jenkins and other candidates was evident at the count from baskets of votes

Making the most of the swing factor

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

LABOUR's sweeping by-election victory in Staffordshire South East brought the party its second largest post-war swing, 22 per cent. Only Dudley West in 1994 bettered it with a 29 per cent swing away from the losing Conservatives.

Labour claimed yesterday's result was the bigger triumph, which could not be dismissed as a mid-term protest but which pointed towards deeper Tory disaffection. "This is a crippling result for a Government that knows that a general election may only be months away," one Labour figure said.

Before Dudley, Labour's biggest post-war swing had been the modest 12 per

cent when it took the Vale of Glamorgan from the Tories in 1989.

However, the two main parties were yesterday using carefully selected snippets of by-election history to bolster their hopes of victory at the next general election.

Euphoric Labour leaders were comparing the Staffordshire result to the Langbaurgh by-election in November 1991, five months before the last general election, in which Labour took the Conservative seat with a swing of 3.6 per cent. Strategists, contrasting that with yesterday's 22 per cent swing, said it underlined the mountain the Tories must climb to win back the seat.

Conservatives preferred to point to the

Ribble Valley seat, lost to the Liberal Democrats in March 1991 on a 24 per cent swing in the wake of public anger over the poll tax. They won the seat back in the following general election. In 1986, the Conservative seat of Ryedale was lost to the Liberal Alliance but was won back as Margaret Thatcher's Government swept to a 100-seat majority at the 1987 general election.

Before the 1983 general election, the Thatcher Government suffered few by-election reverses. However, it did lose the Glasgow Hillhead seat to Roy Jenkins of the SDP/Liberals in March 1982, then went on to secure a resounding 140-seat majority in the general election in May of the next year.

Balancing act allows Mr President to please rival leaders

BILL CLINTON obviously likes and approves of Tony Blair. But the President has to work with John Major, possibly for another year — and after a rocky start, he has come to respect the Prime Minister and enjoy a reasonable working relationship.

So the White House has engaged a careful balancing act over the visit of Mr Blair to Washington. At the same time on Thursday evening as

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Hillary Clinton was having a friendly and at times animated 20-minute chat with the Labour leader at a private reception. Mike McCurry, the White House press spokesman, was delivering a deliberately even-handed message about good relations with Mr Major to the reporters travelling with the Labour leader.

The same themes were reiterated yesterday when Mr Blair visited the White House. All this was a carefully coordinated exercise between the White House, the British embassy in Washington and the Labour leader's office.

This twin-tracked approach makes political sense as a balance of preference and

necessity. Not only does Mr Clinton have to deal with Mr Major, but relations are genuinely better than they have been. Resentments caused by the intervention of Tory party officials in the 1992 American campaign are now seen as in the distant past, if not forgotten. More to the point, the differences of 1993 over Bosnia and Northern Ireland no longer exist. There is close agreement about the deploy-

ment of Nato forces at present, rather closer than there might be with a Republican president. There have been no complaints from the British side about the White House's cool treatment of Gerry Adams since the end of the IRA ceasefire.

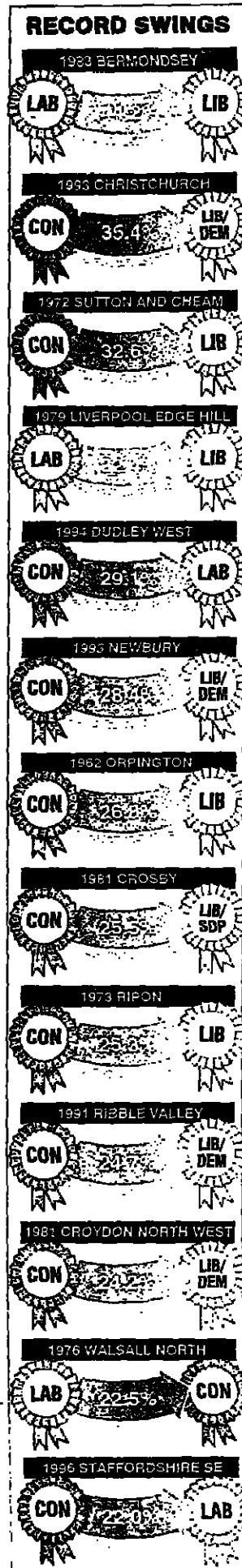
Mr Clinton and Mr Major also see eye-to-eye on reducing trade barriers across the Atlantic, the Middle East and the present uncertainties

caused by elections in Russia. To emphasise their closeness, British officials point out that the two leaders are meeting in Moscow in a week's time.

These are the necessities of international diplomacy. Politics is different — and the warmth of the greeting offered by President Clinton, and by Mrs Clinton's decision to meet Mr Blair, are clearly intended as friendly signals of political allies. The interest

shown in Mr Blair's visit by the business and media elite is because he is now regarded in America as the Prime Minister in Waiting. Mr Blair has at times appeared stunned by the degree of interest and by the warmth of the reception. It may not win any votes but it shows how political expectations are changing in Washington as well as at home.

PETER RIDDELL



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Managing your money for the longer term

Letters help to unlock the enigma of Elgar

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SOME 750 letters by Edward Elgar, in which the composer discusses masterpieces such as *The Dream of Gerontius* and the thrill of being praised by Richard Strauss, are to be sold at auction.

The correspondence, which includes 200 unpublished letters, spans his working life. It was sent to his publishers, Novello, in whose archives it has been stored, and is being sold by an anonymous collector.

It is the most important collection of Elgar's letters to be offered at auction, and will be sold by Sotheby's on May 15. Stephen Roe, head of Sotheby's book department, said: "It is an astonishing survival. Elgar was a really great letter-writer. He wrote from the heart, so honest."

Dr Simon Maguire, music manuscript specialist at Sotheby's, said: "This represents the ultimate Elgar collection, covering the conception, composition, preparation, publication, distribution, performance and reception of all his major works. It is immensely characterful."

The correspondence is not easy to read because Elgar, who lived from 1857 to 1934, often used abbreviations. But his prose is often jokey, and there are drawings, including caricatures of himself.

The earliest letters date from the 1890s, when he

tentatively asked Novello if he "might submit" an overture "for your inspection with a view to publishing it".

In a letter of May 23, 1902, Elgar describes the acclaim he received after the German premiere of *Gerontius*, some months after a disastrous performance in Birmingham, partly marred by an under-rehearsed orchestra struggling with a difficult work. "I understand the thing was a triumph. But I feel rather dazed at the success... Richard Strauss, who never speechifies if he can help it, made a really noble oration over *Gerontius*... and it was worth some years of anguish — now I trust over — to hear him call me Meister." Mr Roe explained: "It had taken Elgar ages to be recognised in England as someone who was of interest."

On August 24, 1910, the composer penned a note asking whether the Austrian-born maestro Fritz Kreisler would be interested in performing his violin concerto in America. "It will never do to have it hacked about by the sort of creatures who play in the States," he joked.

The following spring, frustrated that his composing was not going well, he threatened to terminate his contract with Novello and give up music. "I am now well on in years and have to consider a 'move' and make a new home — under the depressing state of my music I have to reconsider this entirely and shall probably go abroad or to a cottage in the country and leave the musical world entirely." But Elgar had a change of heart and remained with Novello for 15 years until a dispute over the rights for the American publication of *Gerontius*.

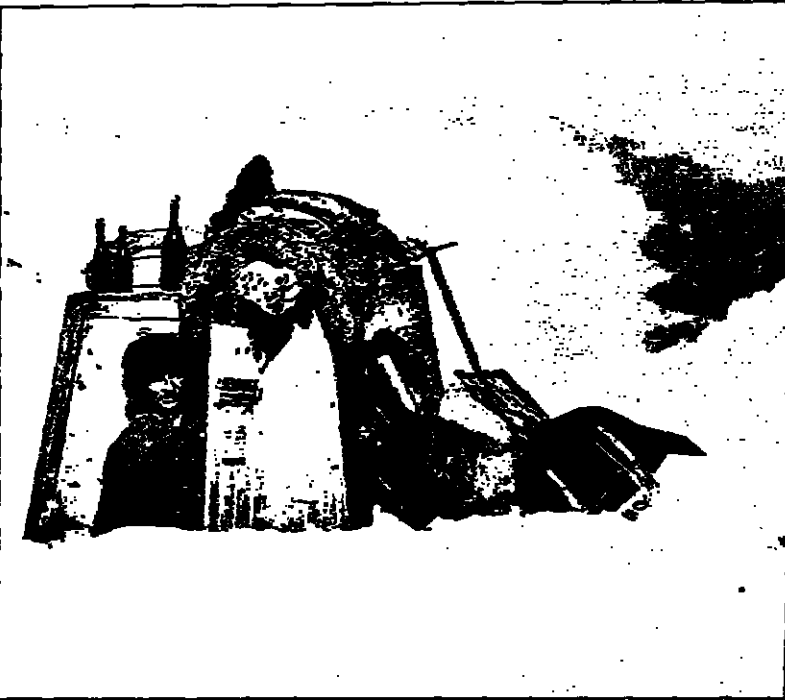
Hugh Cobbe, music librarian at the British Library, said: "We are watching the sale closely. But funds here are terribly restricted. If I could raise the money, I'd go for them like a shot."



Elgar: liked to joke and draw caricatures



The high life: William Davidson's *Climbing Party*, from about 1882. Davidson is third from the right. Below are *Unter-Théodule Glacier and Climbers*, left, photographed by William Donkin in 1879, and *Summit of Mont Blanc*, by Edward Whymper, from about 1894



Victorians scaled the heights of fashion

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

PHOTOGRAPHS of Victorian mountaineers almost 150 years ago, in cumbersome dresses or tweed suits and deerstalkers, have been rediscovered in an archive in the East End of London.

The original prints and glass-plate negatives dating from 1850 give a unique record of the intrepid Victorians. The British, however ill-equipped for the elements, were the first to popularise climbing in the Alps. The photographs show them with ice-axes, walking-sticks and hob-nailed boots.

The photographs are to be published by Atlas Limited Editions, specialists in historical photography. Half the 34 images have never been published before; most of the others were last published as long ago as the 1930s.

Taking the photographs was no easy feat. The equipment weighed up to 45lb and the glass plates were about 1ft 6in by 2ft. To take the equivalent of a modern roll of film, the photographs could need 25 guides and porters.

The glass-plate negatives were developed on the spot. There were many accidents, including the one in which four of Edward Whymper's colleagues fell to their deaths while roped together on the Matterhorn.

The photographers included the Englishman William Donkin, known as the father of Alpine photography, and the French Bisson brothers, who took the first pictures of Mont Blanc. Chamonix and Zermatt are barely recognisable from the ski resorts they have become today.

The photographs were unearthed from an archive owned by the Alpine Club, founded in 1857 for "the promotion of good fellowship among mountaineers, of mountain climbing and exploration throughout the world, and of better knowledge of the mountains through literature, science and art". Chris Bonington will open an exhibition at the club, in Charlotte Road, Shoreditch, running from Thursday until May 17.

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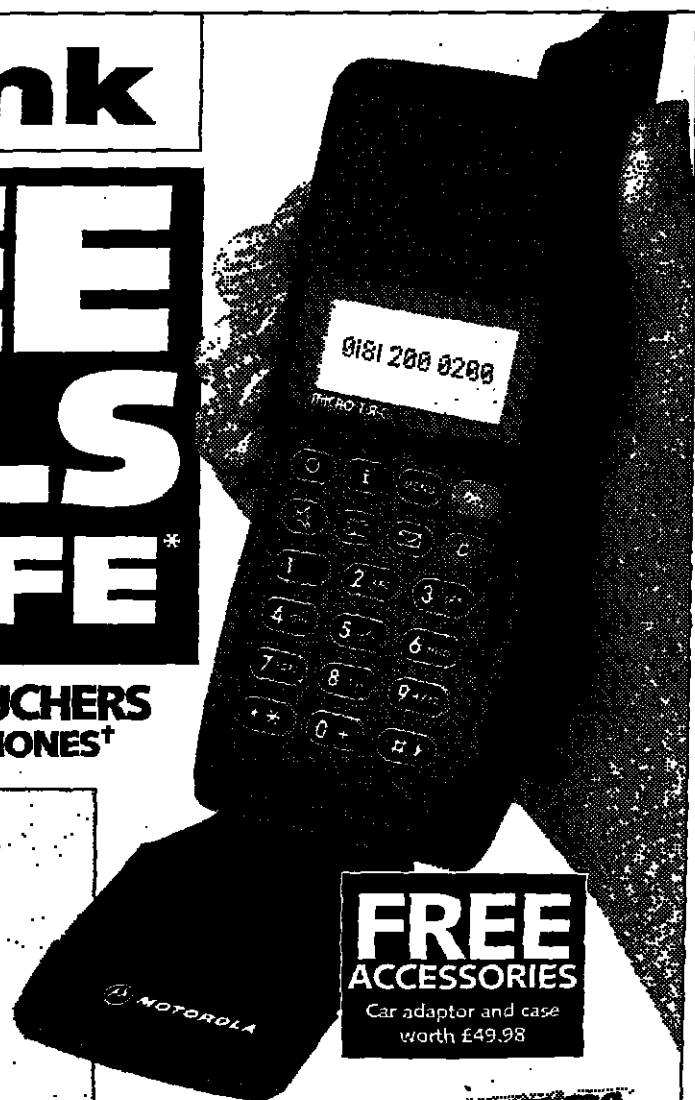
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Hezbollah's Katyushas batter Jewish town for second day

Israelis step up rocket attacks on Lebanon targets

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S war with Islamic extremists in Lebanon intensified yesterday and threatened to draw in other Arab nations after Israeli helicopters hit a Syrian military position in Beirut.

Witnesses said three Israeli helicopters fired rockets at a Syrian anti-aircraft position near Beirut's international airport, in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital.

Several Syrian soldiers and civilians were reported wounded in the attack, as Israel apparently tried to strike near a mosque of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God), the target of its raids.

Ambulances were reported racing through the city, as the streets emptied, with some observers describing the scene as reminiscent of the civil war in Beirut from 1975-1990 which destroyed the once beautiful city.

Syria has 35,000 troops in Lebanon as the country's main power broker. Israel is holding Syria responsible for allowing Hezbollah to continue rocketing communities in the northern region of the Jewish state. The danger of bringing Syria more directly into the conflict was heightened further after Israel's campaign extended into the Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon, where Syria has troops. Thousands of Lebanese were said to be

fleeing north after a threat by Israel to shell the entire region.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, pledged: "We are not looking to hurt civilians and we have called on them to leave their villages [in the area]." Four civilians were killed and seven others injured during the Israeli attacks on the area yesterday before the evacuation began.

US issues plea to militants

Washington: The White House urged Hezbollah to avoid unnecessary provocation but had no response to yesterday's Israeli retaliation (Tom Rhodes writes). "We are trying to work towards a resolution," said an official, who said contact had been made at ambassadorial level in Syria, Israel and Lebanon.

Eight other people were reported wounded in earlier Israeli air and artillery strikes on south Lebanon, while the

helicopter raids in the Shia Muslim southern suburbs of Beirut reportedly wounded at least another five.

The latest Israeli actions, the second strike against Hezbollah targets in as many days, came after guerrilla fighters with the militant Islamic group fired another barrage of Katyusha rockets. Israel hit back immediately at the suspected sources of the rockets in south Lebanon and Mr Peres said there would be further retaliation after more civilians had left the area. He was speaking during a visit to Kiryat Shmona, one of the Jewish towns struck by the Katyusha rockets. A woman was seriously injured when her car took a direct hit.

Mr Peres, who was accompanied during his tour by General Amnon Shahak, the army chief of staff, said: "Hezbollah must understand that it can get nothing using force against Israel." General Shahak accused Hezbollah of a cowardly attack by waiting until Israelis had left their bomb shelters yesterday morning before rocketing the northern region.

In Damascus, hopes were fading last night for a diplomatic breakthrough at a summit due to be held today between President Assad of Syria and his Lebanese counterpart, Elias Hrawi.



Israelis fix firing mechanisms on shells at a Lebanon border base yesterday

'It is easy to reach Beirut, but difficult to leave it'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AS ISRAELI missiles pounded the sprawling Shia Muslim slums of Beirut yesterday for the second time in 24 hours, the Israeli Government was reminded of the dangers inherent in stretching its arm of revenge so far.

Writing in Tel Aviv's biggest-selling newspaper, *Yediot Aharonot*, Nahum Barnea, the leading columnist, delivered a sober note to accompany the euphoria of carefully orchestrated government announcements about "smart bombs" and other hi-tech weapons.

"All the wars in Lebanon began

well with videotapes of exploding headquarters and videotapes of our planes returning safely to their bases," wrote Barnea, a commentator who recently lost his 20-year-old son in an Islamic suicide bomb attack in Jerusalem. "The problems occurred later... Experience teaches us that while it is easy to reach Beirut, it is difficult to leave it."

The note of caution was delivered amid ominous signs on both sides that the escalating Arab-Israeli violence of the past two days could soon spread, possibly dragging in Syria or Iran and jeopardising the frail Middle East peace process.

In Israel, Major-General Amiram Levine, the hardline head of Israel's

Northern Command, issued a warning that the return of Israel to an attack-profile not seen since the early days of the 1982 Lebanon War could last for another two weeks. Speaking after meeting leaders of local councils, who live within rocket range of Hezbollah militants in southern Lebanon, the general said: "I told them that patience and fortitude is needed."

The fear among residents of northern Israel was most clearly demonstrated in the soulless town of Kiryat Shmona, where nearly half the 23,000 inhabitants fled out of rocket range in buses and cars.

Fuelling the sudden escalation is the fact that in less than two months

Israelis will be voting in a general election in which security is the key issue. "One should not ignore the fact that these incidents are occurring about 50 days before the elections," observed *Haaretz*, the Hebrew daily paper. "No Israeli Government can exist so long as there are protests against it in Kiryat Shmona."

From the Arab side, the entirely predictable response to Israel's nine-hour air attack on Thursday — more rockets targeted on Kiryat Shmona and other places — was followed by more ominous warnings about the conflict spreading well beyond Israel's northern border.

A group known as the Organis-

ation of Oppressed, considered by intelligence experts as a *nom de guerre* for the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, claimed responsibility for the explosion at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires four years ago and issued a warning that the resumption of air raids on Beirut would provoke more suicide attacks in Tel Aviv and against Jewish and American targets worldwide.

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the Hezbollah leader, said: "The response to the air bombing of Beirut will take place at a different place, and we will choose the time and place. When we carry this out, it will stun Peres" (Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister).

Bomber blows off legs

Jerusalem: Israeli police are questioning a man who blew off his legs and right hand as he was preparing a bomb, ripping apart the Jerusalem hotel where he was staying (Ross Dunn writes).

"It was either a bomb or some kind of explosive materials," Arie Armit, Jerusalem's police chief said. Nobody else was hurt.

Hospital staff said that the man's life was not in danger and he was still conscious when police brought him in. It was not clear whether the suspect was a would-be suicide bomber. Publication of his name has been banned.

The charge exploded in the Lawrence Hotel on Salah El-Din Street, the main thoroughfare of east Jerusalem.

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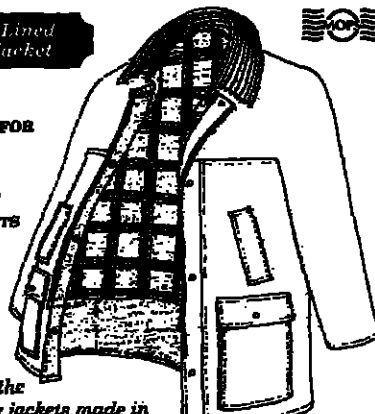
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Doctor prescribes death by computer

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN DARWIN

Dr Nitschke is meanwhile stacking his shelves with barbiturate in preparation. "It's a drug that is used for anaesthetising animals and humans," he said. "And, if you use a large enough amount, for putting them to death."



An artist's impression, released by the Pentagon in Washington yesterday, showing Libya's suspected chemical weapons installation at Rabta. William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, last week did not rule

out that the alleged factory could become the target of a pre-emptive American attack. The artist's rendition, taken from spy satellite photographs, shows three tunnel entrances below terraces cut deeply into a remote, desert hillside. Libya, denying that it is building a perve-

factory, says the excavations are part of a desert irrigation project. Yesterday Tripoli unexpectedly offered to open the site for international inspection and to begin talks with Washington to allay its suspicions. (AP)

US agrees to close base in Okinawa

**FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON**

THE rape of a schoolgirl by three American servicemen on Okinawa made its mark on American foreign policy yesterday as Washington announced plans to close one of its four military bases on the island and proposed further reductions in forces before President Clinton's trip to Japan next week.

A symbolic flashpoint for Japanese unease about the regional presence of 47,000 American troops, Okinawa is still smarting from the rape of the 12-year-old girl last September which provoked protests on the island and questions in Japan about the postwar presence of so many foreign troops. The three servicemen were sentenced last month to prison terms in a Japanese jail.

Pentagon officials said last night that America had also agreed to return "substantial" land, amounting eventually to one-third of American military property on Okinawa, to private ownership.



Crawford: nestles against boyfriend's white collar

Epidemic threatens Florida's sea-cows

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

SCIENTISTS on Florida's west coast are working overtime trying to save the state's best-loved creature, the manatee.

The mammal, which is an endangered species, has been hit by a mysterious epidemic that has claimed 221 lives this year, surpassing the 206 deaths recorded in 1990, previously Florida's worst year for manatees. In the past month, a pneumonia-like disease has claimed 120 victims, and more are dying daily. Marine biologists remain baffled.

Manatees, also known as sea-cows, are one of the largest sea mammals. They feed on plants in shallow waters and can reach 3,000lb. living for 50 years.

The West Indian manatee, which makes its home in the warm Florida waters during the winter, had been making a comeback. Just two months ago, a state survey counted a record 2,639 manatees. However, at the rate at which they are dying, Florida's entire manatee population would be wiped out in two years.

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

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1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

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Confirmed: MMC's green light for Genco bids

It was several weeks ago, on Wednesday March 6 to be precise, that *The Times* exclusively predicted that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was poised to give a qualified go-ahead for PowerGen's £1.9 billion takeover bid for Midlands Electricity and National Power's £2.8 billion bid for Southern. Silence reigned but, within a fortnight, the MMC requested a two-week extension of its deadline to April 4. This request, duly granted by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, was interpreted in the City as an indication that the MMC required more time to draft stringent conditions to the proposed amalgams. In the event, the MMC's report was forwarded to the DTI on March 29.

More silence until last Thursday when speculation that the MMC will give a green light for the Gencos takeover ambitions raised Midlands' share prices. The MMC's report was forwarded to the DTI on March 29.

mist, heralded a break with tradition. *The Economist* let it be known that it had "obtained" a copy of the MMC's report and confirmed that the five-strong panel, spearheaded by Graeme Odgers, the MMC's chairman, recommends the takeovers by a majority of four to one.

According to *The Economist*, the conditions attached to the go-ahead are:
 □ The disposal by Midlands and Southern of their respective generating capacity within 18 months.
 □ The requirement of undertakings from the Gencos to ring fence price-sensitive information regarding contracts signed by the Recs with other generators.
 □ Licences of the merged companies to be amended to give Ofwat, the industry regulator, additional powers to monitor and enforce operating agreements.

The dissenting voice would appear to be that of Patricia Hodgson, the BBC's director of policy and planning. The theme of Ms Hodgson's minority report is reputed to be that the mergers will limit

competition, increase prices and discourage new entrants into the market. Other members of the panel, including Stanley Metcalfe, Professor of Economics at Manchester University, David Jenkins, general secretary of the Welsh TUC and Roger Davies, a director of Airtours, take the view that although the mergers "may be expected to operate against the public interest" in some respects, these are not "sufficiently serious to justify prohibition".

The majority view is that if PowerGen and National Power dispose of six gigawatts of generating plant capacity — as demanded by Stephen Littlechild, Director-General of Ofwat — and new firms enter the industrial market as expected, there will be "a broadly satisfactory competitive environment from 1997".

As *The Times* emphasised last month, the MMC's recommendations represent yet another snub for Professor Littlechild, who is passionately opposed to vertical integration between the Gencos and the



MELVYN MARCKUS

Recs. Littlechild has consistently argued that the proposed mergers would increase the market share of PowerGen and National Power and would have a damaging effect on competition — a perspective echoed by Ms Hodgson. Despite Littlechild's views, the Government has already permitted vertical integration within the industry by way of last year's go-ahead for Scottish Power's £1.1 billion takeover bid for

Manweb. When Mr Lang referred the PowerGen/National Power bids last November he declared: "In general, I do not believe that vertical integration is inherently objectionable, whether in the electricity industry or elsewhere. However, in these two cases, the structural change proposed could have an effect on the development of competition."

As shares in the electricity sector blazed, John Birt, Shadow Energy Minister, said the sort of things that Shadow Ministers say. In his words: "This is a very serious leak of a draft document that throws into question the integrity of the relationship between the Secretary of State and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission." He added: "The contents are so market price sensitive that energy companies' shares are changing hands before the Secretary of State makes a decision on the findings of the report."

No arguing with Mr Birt on this count. On my calculations, close on 55 million shares in the electricity sector changed hands yesterday as

the astute took positions in anticipation of a further round of consolidation within the sector.

It is no secret that several US utility companies, including the likes of Texas Utilities and Pacific Gas and Electric, are currently waiting on Mr Lang's statement on the MMC's findings before deciding whether to launch further forays into the UK electricity sector. Six Recs were acquired in last year's multi-billion pound takeover spree and speculation has recently focused on Yorkshire Electricity, 15p higher yesterday at 89p, and London Electricity, 10p up at 80p.

Support mounted for the two Recs under the spotlight, namely Southern, 21p higher at a record 89p, and Midlands, 7p to the good at 40p. Subject to a clearance from Mr Lang, the two Gencos will inevitably return to the fray but potential rivals have made the most of the delay brought about by the referrals and the possibility of a counter bid for Midlands should not be ruled out.

Similarly, the belief is mounting

in the City that the UK's two principal generating companies may not prove bid proof. PowerGen, 13p higher at 56 1/2p yesterday, is capitalised at some £4 billion, while National Power, 14p up at 49 1/2p, commands a market value of almost £5.6 billion. Several City analysts take the view that a Transatlantic bid for one of the Gencos may yet materialise.

Not a good week for Littlechild. The National Audit Office has inquired into the City's reaction to the Professor's review of his distribution review and gives warning that fund managers may have been "turned off" the forthcoming Railtrack and British Energy privatisations.

Vertical separation of the Gencos and the Recs was Littlechild's gold standard for the electricity industry. The MMC cruelly points out that a merged Genco and Rec "would be a more effective international competitor, partly through increased size and partly because it would possess a wider range of skills and experience".

Abbot on dividend list

ABBOT Holdings, the reshaped oilfield services company, formerly known as Unigroup, reported pre-tax profits of £3.88 million (1994: £364,000) for the 15 months to December 31. The results include a 6 1/2-month contribution from KCA Drilling, its main subsidiary. Earnings were 3.2p a share (0.7p). There is a final dividend of 1.12p and a special dividend of 0.56p. There was no dividend in the previous year.

Redland offer

Redland, the building materials group, has increased its hostile takeover bid for Ennismix, the aggregates company, by nearly £1 million to about £6.7 million and declared the offer final. Ennismix investors are offered 35p a share, 3p higher than Redland's original bid. The shares rose 3p to 36p.

Fujitsu grows

Fujitsu, the Japanese electronics company, is creating 100 new jobs at its factory in West Belfast.

Briton chosen to head Ford's rescue of ailing Mazda

FROM ROBERT WYMAN IN TOKYO

FORD has stepped in to rescue Mazda, the ailing Japanese car manufacturer, and installed a British businessman to oversee the recovery.

Henry Wallace is expected to take over as president in late June, when he will become the first foreigner to head a major Japanese company since the Second World War.

Mr Wallace, 50, will succeed Yoshihiro Wada with the immediate task of restoring the company to profit after three successive years of losses. Mazda reported net losses in 1993 and 1994 and is not expected to show a profit when results for the most recent fiscal year are announced.

Ford is to spend £326 million to increase its shareholding in Mazda from 25 per cent to 33.4 per cent, and will have a greater say in the day-to-day management.

Industry analysts said that a

closer relationship will serve as a shot in the arm for the financially weak Japanese carmaker. In spite of a recent revival in Japan's domestic market, Mazda sales have declined while the strong yen has eroded its exports.

The expanded tie-up will enable the two companies to co-ordinate product development, manufacturing and vehicle distribution, and to improve competitiveness through greater economies of scale.

For the struggling Japanese carmaker, Ford's resources will be of major importance in expanding its research and development programme. Meanwhile, Ford is seeking to expand its share of the Asian market and is particularly anxious to penetrate the Chinese market where it lags behind General Motors.

Some analysts believe Mazda's competitors have reason

to fear the enhanced partnership. If Mazda's technology is combined with Ford's design capacity this will improve Mazda's chances of seizing a bigger share of Japan's saturated domestic market, which will intensify competition.

Mr Wallace joined Ford of Europe in England in 1971. He moved to America in 1983, from where he was promoted to controller at Ford of Mexico in 1986. He returned to Britain in 1989, becoming treasurer of European operations before being made president of Ford's Venezuela company in 1992. Mr Wallace, who studied economics at Leicester University, was confirmed as executive vice-president of Mazda in June 1994.

Ford has been working closely with Mazda since the 1960s, forging a stronger relationship after becoming a substantial shareholder in 1979.



Henry Wallace, who becomes Mazda's president in June

Pensioners swell public coffers

BY KAREN ZAGOR

NATIONAL SAVINGS contributed a record £5.25 billion to government funding in the financial year just ended.

The strong performance was attributed largely to a decision announced in the last Budget by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to reduce the age limit to 60 on Pensioners' Bonds and to lift the maximum holdings to £50,000. They made a net contribution of £2.3 billion. Premium bonds brought in a net £1.5 billion in the year.

In March, National Savings had gross sales of £1.59 billion.

Pensioners' Bonds remained popular in the month, with net contributions of £578 million, followed by Premium Bonds at £203 million and Fixed-Interest Savings Certificates at £143 million.

Investors with Income Bonds now qualify for Pensioners' Bonds and are allowed to transfer their investments. March was the first month this was allowed and about £90 million came from such reinvestments. Pensioners' Bonds pay a fixed, guaranteed annual return of 7 per cent over five years.

UBS faces stormy time

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

FIREWORKS are expected at next week's meeting of stockholders of Union Bank of Switzerland, the country's biggest bank, after it rejected the offer of merger talks with CS Holding, a rival.

CS Holding, parent of the Credit Suisse bank, said this week that it felt the matter was one for shareholders, not management, to decide.

There was widespread speculation yesterday that CS Holding would not only raise

the matter at the meeting on Tuesday, but back rebel shareholders in a vote against a motion to elect Robert Studer as the next chairman of UBS.

Peter Thorne, banking analyst at Paribas, said: "I do not think UBS can climb away as easily as all that."

John Leonard, banking analyst at Salomon Brothers, said the rejection meant "people will be casting an eye over CS Holding given its weak recent performance".

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Cyprus Cyp	0.749	0.694
Denmark K	9.38	8.58
Finland Mk	7.86	7.01
France F	8.12	7.47
Germany Dm	2.42	2.22
Greece Dr	368.00	361.00
Hong Kong \$	12.23	11.23
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.1600	4.5100
Italy Lit	2480.00	2265.00
Japan Yen	173.40	162.40
Malta	0.591	0.536
Netherlands G	2.620	2.460
New Zealand \$	2.38	2.16
Norway K	10.41	9.81
Portugal Esc	244.50	226.00
Spain Ptas	167.00	154.00
Sweden Kr	10.74	9.84
Switzerland F	1.26	1.16
Turkey Lira	114257	106257
USA \$	1.208	1.178

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Employee 'cake' grows

THE average British employee is getting a bigger slice of the company's annual turnover, according to an analysis of 289,000 company accounts by Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company. During the past three years of audited accounts, employees' remuneration has increased from 25.4 per cent of annual turnover to 28.7 per cent. Other key ratios identified by Dun & Bradstreet as signs of recovery include a rise in average dividends to shareholders from 4 per cent of annual turnover to 4.5 per cent. Return on capital by companies has increased from 31.3 per cent to 37.8 per cent.

Price wrangle hits deal

GEC ALSTHOM, the Anglo-French engineering company, has abandoned plans to sell 28 locomotives to China because of disagreements over price. Bernard Pons, France's Transport Minister, said: "The Chinese said they were too expensive. They are going to buy elsewhere." The announcement was made on the third day of a trade visit by Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister. The largest deals concluded were for oil and gas, with Elf, the French petroleum group, sealing a deal worth \$130 million to supply oil and Sotregaz securing a \$50 million contract to supply gas to Shanghai.

US data mixed

THERE was mixed news on the American economy yesterday with a faster than expected rise in consumer prices but a weaker than anticipated reading for retail sales. US consumer prices increased by 0.4 per cent in March after rising 0.2 per cent in February, the Labour Department said. The closely watched core rate, which strips out volatile food and energy costs, rose 0.3 per cent in March after rising 0.2 per cent in February. Separate figures from the Commerce Department showed that retail sales rose only 0.1 per cent in March compared with 1.9 per cent in February.

Clark profits step up

SHAREHOLDERS in C&J Clark, the family-owned Somerset shoemaker, will be unable to sell out for at least another three years, in spite of hopes of an earlier stock market flotation. Clark, Britain's second-largest private company after Littlewoods, has seen off two attempts to force a flotation but is committed to float by May 1998. Pre-tax profits rose 26 per cent to £24.8 million in the year to January 31, fuelled by profits on property and pension holidays, and footwear earnings remain "quite unsatisfactory". A second interim dividend of 3.9p a share makes a total of 7p (6.5p) a share for the year.

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: MARK MASSARELLA

'Godfather' relishes family taste for catering

Jon Ashworth meets the MD of an Italian ice-cream dynasty with a belief in horses for courses

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

IT WAS a bad week for Mark Massarella. He had put German sausage on the menu in department

stores across the UK, just as the nation commemorated the anniversary of the first doodlebugs landing on London. An earlier German promotion was launched on the day the Bundesbank failed to support Britain in the exchange-rate mechanism. His timing left a lot to be desired.

Mark's father, Ronnie, made a similar gaffe in his role as manager of the British showjumping team. He declared on television that he would sooner pick men over women riders because they withstood the pressure better. What's more, you could have a drink with them and give them a "good bollocking". How to endear yourself to half the nation...

Horses and meals just about sum up the Massarellas, who began selling ice-cream to northerners, and proceeded to build one of the UK's biggest private catering

groups. Buy an ice-cream in Hamleys, on Regent Street, and you will have the Massarellas to thank for it. Most of the House of Fraser in-store cafes and restaurants fall under their control. Mark, 44, is managing director of Massarella Catering Group, which employs 1,800 people, and made a pre-tax profit of £2.1 million on turnover of £35 million last year.

The foundations were laid in 1860 when Mark's grandfather, Giovanni, set out from Italy with his family bound for a new life in America. "Rumour has it that they were on their way to the States, stopped off in South Yorkshire to visit friends, and really fell in love with the place," says Mark, sounding every bit the Yorkshireman.

Giovanni set about building an ice-cream business using an old handcart. By the 1900s his 12 sons were hard at work selling the goods. "The confectionery industry was very prevalent around the Doncaster area," says Mark. "My

father's early years were spent waiting outside the pits at 11 or 12 o'clock at night for [the] shift to come out, where they'd buy ice-cream. The stories go that the horses really knew their own way home because my father or his brothers were often fast asleep in the bottom of the cart."

In the 1950s, the family sold what was possibly the most advanced ice-cream manufacturing plant in the UK, if not in Europe, to J Lyons, later Lyons Maid. Ronnie Massarella bought back part of the business in 1963, and made it a market leader in soft ice-cream retailing.

In 1968, Ronnie was given the task of taking his cousin's horse, Mr Softee, to the Olympic Games in Mexico City. He was asked to step in after the team manager fell ill and was duly made Chef d'Equipe, a position he holds to this day.

The British showjumping team included Lady Fraser, wife of Sir Hugh, who had taken charge at House of Fraser on the death of his father.

Massarella restaurants soon began appearing in House of Fraser stores in Blackpool and Newcastle upon Tyne. The company subsequently

won the contract to supply ice-cream to Selfridge's in London, and held it for 16 years.

Mark runs the company with his three brothers, and does not have a regular routine. One day might find him visiting a new House of Fraser site in Swindon. The next might find him travelling round the M25 for discussions with clients. "I don't have such a thing as an average week. Some days I'm out very early in the morning and out until nine and ten at night. Other days I'll wander into the office at nine o'clock like anybody else. I try to not work on a Sunday now."

Mark left school at 16, and joined an ice-cream retailing depot in Doncaster, working his way up to depot manager. He was involved from the outset when the family began to diversify, opening the family's first in-store restaurant at Atkinsons in Sheffield.

Traditional British favourites such as baked beans on toast might be on the



Mark Massarella, one of four brothers in the family firm with a good working relationship and who "see themselves very much as equals with our own strengths"

way out. "I think tastes in food have changed tremendously in the last seven or eight years. People are travelling more, and have developed a very cosmopolitan taste. We are selling a range of Italian breads where people previously wanted a wrapped sandwich. I think coffee proves it more than anything. Flavoured coffees and the cappuccinos are all back in vogue."

Mark regularly travels abroad to cater: up on the latest trends, and would like to see more theatre in his venues, with glass-fronted kitchens, and chefs whipping up stir-fries in full view of the diners. He thinks London has a lot to learn from New York. "There are so many good restaurants, even those in Saks Fifth Avenue and Barney's on Madison. They're superb and very entertaining, and they seem to have a lot more theatre about them."

American-style flair is creep-

ing into Massarella venues. "I was in a restaurant on Fifth Avenue where you could dip different types of bread into different oils, and buy both. We have jars filled with Italian mushrooms and olives and artichokes, and the customer actually sees us larding them out onto salads. We've seen a demand for them. If people can take home what they eat, it's a good add-on."

The Massarella empire is run from Thurcroft Hall near Sheffield, home to Ronnie, 72, and his wife, Edna, and set in 200 acres. There is a riding school in the grounds, and board meetings are punctuated by neighing from 20 horses.

Mark lives in the Old Laundry with his wife and five sons and is hailed in the family's publicity material as the Godfather, the one who listens to the ideas and seeks out the clients. Jeremy is portrayed as "the *Consigliere*, the money

man who the others believe is not really Italian in origin, but from another nationality more renowned for keeping a tight hold on the purse strings". A third brother, Stephen, is "the Arthur Dely, the wheeler and dealer. None of the others really know what he does out of business hours."

Michael, the quiet one, serves as the inspiration

for many of the menus. "Out of work he sees himself as a typical Italian peasant, growing veggie and pottering around his farm." Mark plays down the Godfather angle. "Obviously, I work very closely with my brothers and we have a very good family working relationship. We see ourselves very much as equals

with our own strengths." This said, Papa and the boys have a habit of turning up en masse at Dickins & Jones or the Army & Navy. "We try to make two visits a year as a board of directors and family together, to every restaurant. That's become a custom now."

Mark visits up to 20 stores some weeks. Nearly 1,000 food lines are distributed around the UK, and communication can be tricky at times. Mark recalls the store manager who dispatched an employee to a local supermarket to buy fresh supplies of chips. "She came back with a freshly wrapped bag of chips in newspaper from the local fish and chip shop. It just shows you how communication can go wrong."

Mark hopes to win more contracts running staff canteens - never, traditionally, the most gourmet of experiences. "We've only scratched

at the surface with our business in that sector. Most clients, now, are wanting a lot more for their staff with perhaps less subsidy attached to it. I think people will pay a little bit more if they know they're getting some variety and something better."

Massarella is locked in a battle for market share with the giants of UK catering, Compass, Sutcliffe and Gardner Merchant, but insists no one in the family is ready to cash in their chips, however generous the offer. "We've had a few tempting discussions, but none of us is at the stage where we want to sell out." About £2 million of profit was ploughed back into the business last year, after payment of directors' fees, which Mark insists are reasonable. "There's certainly no fat cats on our board at the moment."

The aim is to lift pre-tax profits from £2.1 million to

£3.5 million by 2000, on turnover rising from £35 million to £55 million. "That's very realistic, and we're already in negotiations with independent shopping centres. Staff catering is becoming more retail. We feel we are well placed."

Family-run companies are prone to feuds, as followers of C&J Clark and Unilevers are well aware. Mark insists that all is well at Massarella. "I think I've been very fortunate with my brothers that we've worked very well together and we've kept the business as a whole. I think what tends to happen with a lot of family businesses is that you get to a certain size and get married, and split up the business. We've actually managed to maintain a growing business where we work very well together and trade off each other's strengths. What the next generation's going to be like, God only knows."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Telecoms giant enjoys art of water

Art on a big scale provides a relaxing feature at the headquarters of Cable and Wireless. Joanna Pitman reports

If the tense negotiations between Cable & Wireless and British Telecom, aimed at forging a £32 billion merger, get bogged down in complexities, you can imagine that Brian Smith, chairman of Cable & Wireless, might seek calming inspiration from the six-storey waterfall that flows peacefully, from morning to night, in the atrium of his company's head office.

The waterfall, technically a water sculpture, is the work of William Pye, the artist who designed the monumental 70-yard wall for Nicholas Grimshaw's British Pavilion at Expo '92 in Seville.

While the water wall was a highlight of the Expo, Pye later caught the public eye in Britain with his water sculpture at Gatwick Airport.

The work, *Slipstream and Jetstream*, is in the departure lounge of the North Terminal and consists of two large asymmetrical cones covered by a thin lamina film of flowing water that is dragged into rhythmic wave patterns.

Hundreds of people pass it every day as they descend a circular walking ramp that curls around it on the way to the departure gates.

C&W's investment in Pye was a shrewd and early one. In 1989, when plans for refurbishing C&W's 1956 building at 124 Theobalds Road, London, were being discussed, Gordon Owen, then managing director, suggested a water feature, and Pye was found. The piece he

produced for C&W, with his architect, David Franklin, is simply entrancing. It is called *Aventino*, after one of the hills of Rome that was home to Mercury.

It consists of a continuous "wall" of water flowing six storeys down platinated bronze panels that are sculpted to create a rippled effect. At the bottom, the water wall fans out to flow down a wide glass sheet and into a shallow pond in the foyer.

The sculpture is lit with powerful theatrical lights to pick out the different colours in the bronze backdrop and to highlight the shapes created by the moving flow.

Light shades of green and the cool Portland stone facades all around create a graceful, tranquil ambience in the humming headquarters of one of the world's biggest telecommunications groups. When you use the glass-fronted lifts, you pass behind the flow of water and can look down on a furious cascade. It is a sensation similar to walking behind the torrential flow of Niagara Falls.

Since the C&W work, Pye has been involved in many big engineering and construction projects, including theme consultant to Teesside Development Corporation.

It is no surprise that his creativity has followed this direction. His father was Sir David Pye, a president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, who helped to found the engineering school at Cambridge.



Cable and Wireless's six-storey atrium waterfall

After graduating from the Royal College of Art, Pye joined a West End gallery, where he had several successful exhibitions. However, the larger scales of industrial materials and processes soon began to interest him and a fascination with big outdoor works lured him away from

the intimacy of the gallery world. He was worked with various degrees of success as a sculptor in a number of media for 25 years until the 1980s, when he became fascinated by the idea of working with water. "Water sculpture" at the time had barely progressed beyond the foun-

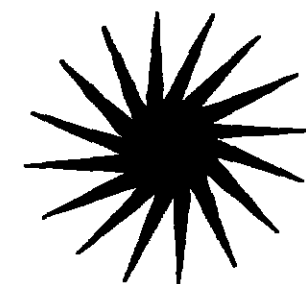
tain, and Pye began his water work in the US, producing sculptures in or around pools, and five pieces for shopping malls.

Pye's first real "water sculpture" is *Water Trellis*, a triangle of steel tubes from which water shoots in a serene, curved stream. After that, he began a series of sculptures that consist of bowls brimming with water. The mesmerising focus of each piece is the way in which the meniscus stands above the rim of the bowls. The surfaces are so smooth, dark and opaque that they look like polished black marble.

Each piece requires a high level of lead detection and closely monitored water treatment. In one early work, Pye ended up with gallons and gallons of bright red, rusty water because an engineer had failed to use stainless steel piping. After that, Pye decided to oversee construction himself.

The C&W installation includes a sophisticated leak detection system that will trigger a shut-off of the water supply and make the pumps drain the system. Filters and a water treatment plant have been custom-made and are designed to pump nearly nine gallons a second around the sculpture.

In many ways, Pye is an architect-sculptor, a rare combination, and he is now rising high in Britain's firmament of artistic stars. *Aventino* has been short-listed, with six other pieces, for the 1995 Art and Work Award, and members of the Fountains Society make pilgrimages to Theobalds Road to view C&W's flowing art.



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Unit-linked clients miss takeover bonus

Marianne Curphey on winners and losers among Clerical Medical clients as the Halifax snaps up the life insurer

Within six weeks, Clerical Medical policyholders will discover how much they will gain from the £800 million takeover of their life insurer by the Halifax Building Society.

However, one category of policyholders will be excluded from the special bonus payout. They are the tens of thousands of savers with unit-linked policies who cannot even voice displeasure by voting against the deal, because they are not entitled to vote. They are barred by the arcane rules of mutual organisations such as Clerical Medical, which say that only with-profits policyholders have a stake in the business and the right to vote.

They will not receive payouts because they are deemed not to have taken a share of the risk — Clerical Medical has grown and they have not provided capital for its expansion.

Instead, their contributions have been pooled to buy units that are kept separate from the

main fund. Although they have been charged expenses to cover the cost of running the fund, their contributions, or so the argument runs, have not helped to bring in new business.

Douglas Claisse, deputy chief executive of Clerical Medical, said that only policyholders with unit-linked policies or ordinary with-profits funds would have voting rights and share in the payout.

He said: "The Halifax is taking over Clerical Medical, and the with-profits policyholders who are members of the mutual are being compensated for losing their membership rights. Unit-linked policyholders are not affected."

However, many unit-linked policyholders who have invested in the mutual feel that they are being short-changed.

Katie Knapton, a Times reader who works at Cambridge University and runs a society for Cambridge graduates, believes the distinction is unfair. "It has never been

explained to unit-linked policyholders in detail why they have been excluded from the payout, since many of them have made contributions for a number of years," she said.

Roman Cizdyn, an insurance analyst with Merrill Lynch, agrees. Unit-linked policyholders might, in theory, have a case for challenging their exclusion from the special bonuses if they were sold the product by a member of a direct sales force who could have advised them to opt for a with-profits policy, he says.

Mike Wadsworth, an actuary with Watson Wyatt, the accountancy firm, said that if unit-linked policyholders were to receive a share of the profits of the organisation, a buyer might decide to reward them when the deal goes through as a sweetener.

Industry figures show that with-profits and unit-linked policies are sold in roughly equal numbers in the UK, although when financial markets are rising, unit-linked policies are popular because they take advantage of investment returns.

General Accident, which bought the life company Provi-

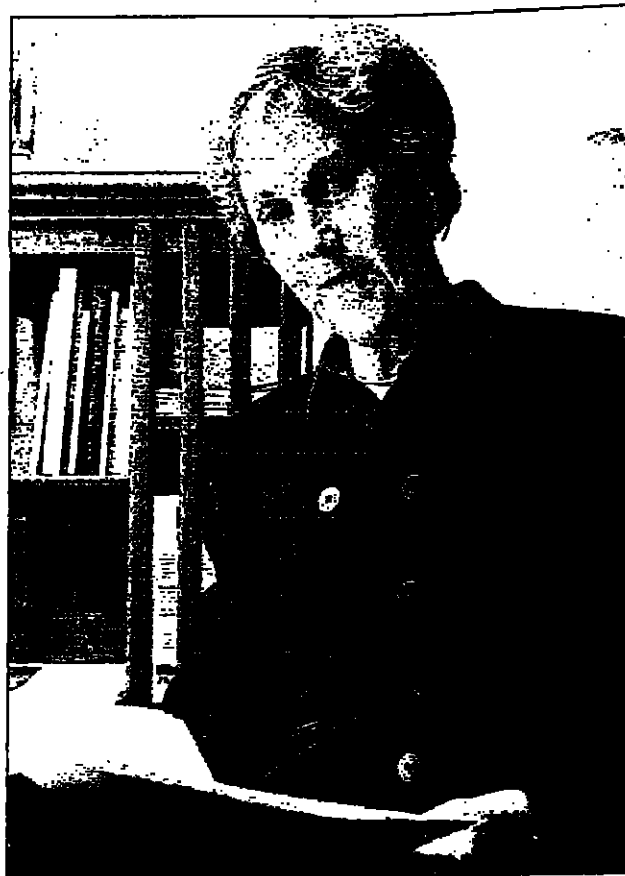
dent Mutual last year, will pay bonuses of about £100 to its 250,000 with-profits policyholders, but nothing to its 50,000 unit-linked members.

Mike Urmston, assistant general manager and chief actuary of General Accident, says that only with-profits policyholders are being rewarded because, historically, they have provided the capital to make the business grow.

"Unit-linked policyholders only benefit from a takeover if the management charges on their funds are reduced or frozen," he said. "We have guaranteed that expenses for Provident Mutual savers will not rise for five years. With-profits premiums go into the reserves, which the company can use to finance new business."

Clerical Medical has guaranteed that expenses, which are reviewed annually, will rise in line with the Retail Price Index and not above it for at least five years. At present, the average effect of charges on a fund's performance is equivalent to an annual 1 per cent yield cut.

For most with-profits policyholders, Clerical Medical will pay an enhanced terminal bonus (an extra payment distributed at the end of the policy's



Katie Knapton considers policy distinctions unfair

life) plus a one-off bonus (equivalent to the special annual bonus) every December for the next three years. The policy must have been in force at midnight on March 22 and still be running at midnight on December 31, 1996. Mr Claisse estimates this will be worth an average £2,172 to someone who has held a £30,000 policy for 15 years.

Savers whose with-profits

policies mature between the two qualifying dates will be given the equivalent of the special reversionary (annual) bonus only. A small number of policyholders who took out their unit-linked policies before 1984 — the year in which the group changed the rules on voting rights — will also benefit from a payout. All other unit-linked policyholders will be excluded.

N&P explains why some will lose out

The N&P takeover now has to be confirmed by the Building Societies Commission. The hearing takes place on June 3 and members who believe they have been unfairly excluded or are otherwise dissatisfied will be able to attend in person or write to put their case. Written representations must be received by May 13. If all goes according to plan, the takeover will take place on August 5 and payouts will follow in September.

Who gets what payout can seem complicated to members, but the deciding factor is how long you have been with the N&P.

Savers of less than two years' standing will receive £500 worth of free Abbey National shares. To qualify, they have to have had a share account with more than £100 invested on April 28, 1995 and December 31, 1995. Borrowers will also get £500 of Abbey shares if they had mortgages of more than £100 on April 28, 1995, and continue to do so until the takeover.

Savers who have been with N&P for more than two years will get a larger £750 which they can choose to take either in Abbey shares or in cash.

On top of this they will get a payout of at least 7 per cent of the balance in their account, up to a maximum of £3,500 on a balance of £50,000. Two year savers will have to have had a share account open with more than £100 in it on April 28, 1995 and December 31, 1995 and keep the account open until the takeover.

The first named holder of a joint account will get the payout. If he or she dies before the takeover, the second named should get the payout.

Similarly if the holder of an account in a sole name dies, his or her successor can qualify. However many longstanding N&P members are angry at being excluded from the bonus, while others who joined when the takeover was first rumoured this time last year stand to receive £500 of Abbey National shares.

N&P said its helpline was unable to answer individual questions posed by *Weekend Money* readers for legal reasons. So *The Times* approached N&P for answers to some of the letters it has received.

Nigel Samuelson, Powys "My wife stands to lose a substantial bonus because I transferred our joint account into her sole name last October, a few days before the terms of the transfer were announced. I did so when my wife was seriously ill to try to equalise our estates. The effect is manifestly unjust as our savings with the society derived primarily from the surplus equity in our home when we moved." In a letter to Lord Shuttleworth, N&P

chairman, Mr Samuelson elaborates: "Last October, a few days before the terms of the merger were announced, I transferred my share in a joint account with my wife... Consequently as I was the first named, it appears my wife has forfeited her entitlement to any variable distribution... To lose in excess of £2,500 is a loss we can ill afford. I would submit to you that the first named rule in the prospectus is also against the spirit of equal opportunity as it discriminates against women. In my own case, had my wife transferred her share in our account to me it would have had a nil effect as far as entitlement to any variable distribution."

N&P says: "It is true Mrs Samuelson will forfeit her payout. [She will not qualify for the variable payout to members of more than two years' standing because she was not a member in her own right on the joint named account and has been a member in her own right on the sole named account for less than two years. Nor will she get the £500 fixed distribution either because she did not have an account open as a member on April 28 1995.] "We feel really bad about these people. But our branches were not able to comment [and advise the Samuelsons against moving accounts] for legal reasons. We did produce a leaflet advising people of the significance of joint named accounts but only after October 16 when we published the terms of the merger. The branches wouldn't have known any details before then."

Dr R. I. Watson, Sussex "I have been a customer of the N&P for some years, using it for depositing money against future tax liabilities. As luck would have it I went into my branch on December 27, 1995, and 'withdrew' by cheque a sum which reduced my balance below the magic £100 level. However, since this was the holiday period the cheque did not arrive in my bank until January 3, 1996, and the money was not actually cleared until January 8, 1996. It is my contention therefore that I fulfilled N&P's requirement."

N&P replies: "As soon as a cheque is drawn on a building society account, the withdrawal happens and the money is deducted from the account. Building society cheques are not like bank cheques and they can be treated like cash. There will always be people who lose out — this is in the nature of cut-off dates. The £100 minimum is specified in the Building Societies Act."

SARA MCCONNELL

Caroline Merrell on the Inland Revenue decision to change the treatment of educational trusts

Revenue gives parents a caning

Thousands of parents with children in private education will have to pay higher fees after a shock decision by the Inland Revenue to change the taxation treatment of educational trusts.

Many trusts are set up as charities which allows them to pay out school fees in a tax-efficient manner. Parents or grandparents can pay a lump sum in to a trust run by an insurance company or financial adviser. The trust will then buy annuities — investments which pay a regular income. At present, the income is tax-free. If the Inland Revenue proposals go through unopposed, this income will become taxable.

The Revenue aims to bring in the changes from April next year. Its decision follows a two year investigation by the Charity Commission into the charitable status of educational trusts. The commission felt that many of the trusts were set up merely to provide cheaper school fees rather than as charities. Many of the trusts made donations towards particular school facilities to maintain their charitable status.

Hugh Rogers, Charity Commission spokesman, said: "We are of the opinion that the trusts are not essentially charities."

He said the commission had withdrawn the charitable status of five trusts. The trusts are run by the School Fees Insurance Agency (SFIA), the Equitable Educational Trust, the Save & Prosper Educational



Good old daze: few worried about how to pay school fees when Robert Donat starred in the original *Good-Bye Mr Chips*

Trust, the Castle Educational Trust and the Sun Life Educational Trust.

Mr Rogers said: "Charities are not meant to benefit particular individuals. The charities can appeal against the decision in the High Court if they want to. We think that these organisations no longer qualify for this status. So we will simply remove them from our register. Our ruling comes at

the end of a long investigation."

Anne Feek, SFIA managing director, said she intended to appeal against both the Revenue and the Charity Commission's decision. She added that although the ruling does come into force next year, it amounts to retrospective legislation.

She said: "We are vigorously defending the case for existing clients. The plan has

been in operation since 1959. Many people will have invested on the basis that they will get the tax break." She estimated that the ruling could affect about 10,000 of her clients alone.

School fees specialists are unsure exactly what the effect of the ruling will be on the price of private education. But some estimate that it could mean increases of about 8 per

cent. The change could be particularly hard on those who have saved for a long time to provide their children or grandchildren with school fees, because the amount invested will be greater.

Geoffrey Harrison Dees, chairman of the Sun Life Educational Trust (Slet), has written to clients warning them of the change. In his letter he said: "Since 1952, Slet

has been recognised as a charity by the Inland Revenue. For over 30 years Slet has been entitled to claim a refund of the tax deducted from its investment income in relation to school fees plans. This has allowed the trust to pay an enhanced level of school fees to each of our planholders."

"However, the trust now faces the prospect of being without tax refunds in future in which case the trust will have to reduce all fee payments. This will not have any impact on fee payments made before April 1, 1997, but it will impact on payments made on or after that date."

He goes on to ask clients to write to their own Member of Parliament to try to have the ruling overturned.

Ms Feek said: "We do not think clients in educational trusts should take any drastic action. Despite the more disadvantageous tax position on the trusts, for those who only have five years to go before the child starts education, they can still be useful." She said other savings plans including Personal Equity Plans, and offshore bonds could be more appropriate.

The Independent Schools Information Service (Istis), which keeps statistics on the independent sector estimated that about 5 per cent of the 500,000 children in private education relied on educational trusts.

An Istis spokeswoman said that the change would have an effect on the ability of parents to fund for the long term education of children.

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&P explains why some will lose out

Cautionary tale of nest-eggs

Like an Aesop's fable, the troubled story of the Ostrich Farming Corporation, now the subject of an official investigation, is a cautionary tale. It would appear to hold lessons for investors, and also for the watchdogs responsible for investor protection.

The precepts for investors are simple, obvious even. But it seems that they are easily forgotten, even by the most cautious people. Perhaps they believe that the strict rules governing the promotion of investments apply to every money-making scheme, including those based on ostriches which were, as OFC, boasted, "the cash crop of the Nineties".

To ensure that you and your cash are not parted for ever, always be suspicious of a company offering higher-



COMMENT
ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

than-average returns, especially when the company involved is not an authorised investment business.

The Ostrich Farming Corporation promised returns of 50 per cent plus, a figure that the most talented fund manager can only dream of achieving. As it dealt in alternative investments, the company did not need a licence from one of investment regulators. This means that, whatever fate it holds in store for

OFC, the outcome of the investigation is not being known, its hapless customers are not covered by any compensation scheme.

It could be argued that anyone putting the proceeds of a matured Fessa into such an untried venture, as likely to prove to be a turkey as a nest egg, deserves to lose their money. But this would excuse the lamentable failure of the authorities to alert the public to its concerns about OFC.

They should now be assessing their role to ensure that there is no repetition of the delays seen in this sorry episode. More than a year ago, the Department of Trade and Industry knew that OFC's operations were causing considerable disquiet. But they stood idly by, allowing the company to trade merrily on, attracting more than a million a month.

The very survival of the company instilled confidence in aspiring investors who mistakenly believe that the powers-that-be intervene as soon as searching questions are raised about an enterprise.

It is, of course, essential to gather as much information as you can about an investment before signing a cheque. However, the DTI

possessed information about OFC that the average individual could never have gleaned. There is, for example, the identity of one of its salesmen, Paul Prew-Smith, a resident of sunny Marbella. His previous business, the Southport-based Fisher Prew-Smith, now failed, dealt in home-income plans. The official Investors Compensation Scheme has paid out more than £13 million to 1,000 of his elderly victims.

As well as keeping investors in the dark, the DTI would not help The Times in its inquiries over OFC. Let us hope that when it concludes its investigation into OFC it will not be so disobliging. Or we will be able to conclude that, although ostriches may actually not bury their heads in the sand, is a habit among regulators.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Timeshares use cheap loan lure

Unwary foreign timeshare property buyers may find their deal looks less attractive when they return home. Some mortgage brokers are promising families that they can remortgage their homes to raise money to buy the timeshare and, at the same time, cut their monthly outgoings. The lure of a lower mortgage can help to clinch the deal. Yet some timeshare buyers are finding that the rates offered abroad are lower than the rates they have to pay at home.

Within the past few weeks, the Office of Fair Trading has launched an investigation into one of the companies now operating in this field, the Mortgage Advice Centre, based in Leicester.

The OFT has taken the unusual and serious step of issuing a notice saying that it is "minded to revoke" the MAC's credit licence. If the Office of Fair Trading puts a "minded to revoke" notice on a credit broker, the company has to submit a defence before an adjudicator. Investigations can take several months.

The OFT moved to take action after dozens of complaints to trading standards officers. Most grievances

centred on the mortgage quotes used by the centre, which were faxed over to holiday resorts, while the holidaymakers were being sold timeshare apartments in Majorca, Minorca and Tenerife. The experiences of Margaret and Michael Fisher from Swindon are typical of many of those dealing with the MAC.

The couple were in Minorca when they were subjected to several hours of hard sell by a timeshare salesman who said they could reduce their overall mortgage outgoings, and still buy a timeshare worth £9,000. The couple were attracted by the deal. They were paying about £320 a month for a £40,000 mortgage on their home, which is worth about £100,000. The Mortgage Advice Centre told the Fishers that they could reduce their costs to about £230 a month.

Mrs Fisher, a teacher, said: "The company asked for a deposit of £1,200, which we did not have there and then, so we agreed they would take £200 off our Visa card, and take further instalments when there was enough credit available." The timeshare company took a further two instalments totalling more than £1,000

from the credit card. The picture changed when the Fishers returned to Britain. They were visited by a MAC representative who provided them with a remortgage rate quote which was higher than the earlier quote provided at the resort.

When the Fishers asked for their deposit back, the timeshare company threat-

ened legal action. They did get £500 of their deposit back, but are in dispute over the rest.

Diana Hanks, of the Timeshare Council, said many who had complained to her faced losing deposits of thousands of pounds. Ian Smith, of the MAC, said he was going to fight the OFT investigation.

He said: "The complaints against the company are unjustified. The client details often do not check out when they get home, which means that higher costs could be incurred."

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Remortgaging victims Margaret and Michael Fisher

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Investigators move on ostrich traders

Karen Zagor takes a look at the controversy building over the Ostrich Farming Corporation

The DTI may find itself even more embarrassed.

The Times discovered this week that the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City regulator, conducted

covered by the protective umbrella of the City regulators and are not eligible for compensation through the Investors Compensation Scheme. Meanwhile, investors do not

chairs, a chaise longue, the microwave and filing cabinets complete with their contents were gone. We were told the stuff had gone to marketing offices in Ollerton."

The Ostrich Sales and Marketing Corporation is based in New Ollerton, Nottingham. Brian Kitchell, OFC's managing director, is secretary and director of the New Ollerton company.

An action group for owners

Karen Zagor takes a look at an off-beat investment that is gaining in

Problems could hatch fr

It is possible to invest in an ostrich farm, but the Times has discovered that the Ostrich Farming Corporation (OFC) is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company. The OFC is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company. The OFC is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company.

The OFC is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company. The OFC is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company. The OFC is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company.

Early warning: in late December, The Times was testing claims of huge returns

International hunt for Ostrich Farming

By KAREN ZAGOR AND ROBERT MILLER

International investors are left wondering whether the bird in the field will be worth the hunt. The OFC is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company. The OFC is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company.

Egg cracks: by April this year, investors were worried

know how their birds are faring. Nor can they be certain that there is a sufficient number to go around. For the moment, the Official Receiver is acting as provisional liquidator for the company. Following a request by the President of the Board of Trade, the Receiver's job is "to protect and preserve the assets and financial records of the company" until the petition is heard. The SFO's involvement underscores the seriousness of the case.

Inquiries by The Times this week indicated that important documents went missing from OFC's Nottingham headquarters in the days before the Receiver moved in. A former employee said: "When we got in on Monday, the fridge-freezer, the coffee maker, two

Move to wind up ostrich farming company

Final act: winding-up nears is being formed by Stephen Whitmore of Wilsons, a Salisbury firm of solicitors, tel: 01722 412979. A tape-recorded message from the Receiver's office is on 0171 637-6605. The Insolvency Service number is: 0171 637-1110.

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Richard Thomson reports on the uncertainty plaguing American investors

Bonds fall prey to US market sentiment

You could hardly have got it more wrong if you tried. Jeffrey Vinik, manager of the \$56 billion Magellan Fund, America's largest mutual fund, loaded up with bonds at the worst moment. One day last February he poured millions into the market only hours before the worst single-day rout bonds had seen for eight years.

Since then, things have got worse. Something nasty is going on in the US bond market and Mr Vinik is only one victim. Bond prices were hammered again in March and yet again nine days ago. The yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond, which rises as prices fall, has lurched from below 6 per cent to within a whisker of 7 per cent in a few weeks.

What has happened is that there has been a sharp change in sentiment over US interest rates. Bond prices usually fall on the back of what most people regard as good news, and so it has been recently.

Figures showing a sharp rise in employment suggested that the economy was stronger than expected, which in turn implied a rise in inflation, which further suggested that interest rates would have to rise to keep inflation under control.

Bonds hate rising interest rates, so bond prices fell. That is all a radical change from a couple of months ago when everyone was expecting interest rates to fall (which is why Mr Vinik piled into the bond market so disastrously).

The sell-off has been so sharp that it has prompted comparisons with early 1994 when a sudden change in market sentiment over interest rates sent bond prices into a nosedive.

Some analysts believe yields could still rise a lot further, to around 7.25 per cent in the near future.

At the same time, the stock market seems to have lost some of its bullishness, too. The same fear of inflation and rising interest rates triggered an 80-point fall in the Dow

Jones industrial average last Monday, but most of the market felt confident that prices would recover almost immediately. They didn't. Instead they fell for several days, pulling the Dow down 200 points, or nearly 4 per cent.

To many in the markets, the stock market's fall was necessary to catch up with bonds. They argued that the traditional relationship between the two markets had fallen out of sync in the last few weeks, and if bonds were not going to rise then shares had to decline.

Indeed, there is a growing number of market operators who believe that the bull market in shares has at last ground to a halt.

"The market has been overvalued for a long time," says Michael Metz, the equity strategist at Oppenheimer, the fund management group. "The market is in for a long-term decline."

What is particularly worrying is that for the first time in a long time the fall in prices has been broadly-based rather than concentrated in only a few big stocks.

Most of the bears expect a setback of at least 10 per cent



Over there: Tony Blair's trip to America underlines its importance to UK investors

gest monthly inflow, was still slightly lower than in February. This gives great hope to the market optimists.

All that money, after all, should help to buoy the market. They also believe that, although worries about rising interest rates are growing, there is no reason for share or bond prices to collapse.

"I'm not sure this is the start of a major decline," says Richard McCabe, chief market analyst at Merrill Lynch. "There will be a continuing bull market because, although interest rates may rise a bit in the near future, they will fall again later in the summer."

The pessimism in the bond market, thinks Blood, has simply been overdone. "Bonds will probably go sideways for a few months, with yields staying between about 6.5 per cent and 7 per cent."

That, he believes, is the worst that is likely to happen. After a few months, bond prices will then start to rise as the danger of rising interest rates passes and the market's fears are calmed. The stock market, meanwhile, will pick itself up, dust itself off and start another rally before the summer is out.

This is a persuasive point of view. Everything depends, of course, on what inflation does but there is not much evidence that it is about to burst out of its cage.

Certainly, the Fed is unlikely to lower interest rates any time soon but it is disappointment over that which seems to have sent the bond market into decline as much as any fear of rising rates. If the bond market realises this and levels out, the stock market should also regain heart.

The timing of all this, as always, is hard to predict. It is probably a mistake to start buying US stocks or bonds just yet, particularly while the markets are so turbulent. A waiting policy may be best for the next week or two while the real direction of the markets becomes clearer.

Sooner or later, however, it ought to be time to start looking around for bargains again after the price falls. Happy hunting.

The market has been overvalued for a long time. The market is in for a long-term decline

on the Dow — anything less would hardly count as a serious correction. Last week the market made half of that decline, but a further fall could feed a crucial element of panic into the market.

At the moment, however, panic is one thing that is signally lacking.

In fact, if you look at the amount ordinary investors are putting into the market you might think we are still in the middle of the greatest bull market this century. A staggering \$23 billion poured into a mutual fund (the US equivalent of unit trusts) in March which, although the third big-

gest monthly inflow, was still slightly lower than in February. This gives great hope to the market optimists.

All that money, after all, should help to buoy the market. They also believe that, although worries about rising interest rates are growing, there is no reason for share or bond prices to collapse.

"I'm not sure this is the start of a major decline," says Richard McCabe, chief market analyst at Merrill Lynch. "There will be a continuing bull market because, although interest rates may rise a bit in the near future, they will fall again later in the summer."

Sting taken out of vet fees

THE huge rise in the cost of veterinary surgeons' fees means treating sick or injured pets is becoming expensive and a number of insurance companies have set up policies to cover surgery, kennelling and liability costs for animals.

NFU Mutual has just launched a horse and pony policy for riders involved in show-jumping, hunting or hacking. Unaffiliated show-jumping or riding club activities are covered within the lowest class of use and pre-paid show entry fees of up to £500 are also covered should a horse be stolen or die before an event.

The increase in veterinary fees means cover has been increased to £2,000 per incident regardless of the number

of claims made in any one year. This also includes provision for up to £500 of alternative treatment, such as equine osteopathy or physiotherapy. In addition to cover for theft or mysterious disappearance of horses and ponies, cover is now included for rescue, advertising and reward costs of up to £250 each.

Cover for personal liability has been reviewed and the indemnity limit increased to £5 million per occurrence — this reflects the current trend of high awards made in personal injury cases.

The policy is suitable for all horses and there is an optional extension for horse trailers covering not only accidental damage but also personal liability cover while the trailer is not attached to a motor

vehicle. For further details call 01933 22484.

□ The Association of Investment Trust Companies has put together a CD-Rom on the principles and composition of investment trusts, which is available from the AITC, Durrant House, 8-13 Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4YJ at a cost of £22.95 including VAT. Information: 0171 588 5347.

□ Nearly one fifth of Britain's 22.5 million households are under-insured, according to a survey of 1,000 homes by Eagle Star Direct. This means that £20 billion of property is at risk. The insurance company advises householders to check carefully that their insurance covers the full value of their home contents and to notify insurers when valuables are purchased.

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Watchdogs show their teeth as the mis-selling saga drags on



PENSIONS GUIDE

PART

7

Helen Pridham says regulators are planning tougher measures to ensure justice is full and final

osity of these terms, plus aggressive marketing by pension providers, led to over five million people contracting out of Serps.

Two groups of workers who may have been wrongly advised to contract out were those on low earnings and people above certain age limits. The largest category is expected to be those on incomes of, say, significantly less than £10,000 a year, whose rebates were relatively small and who took out pension plans with companies that imposed high charges.

Particularly hard hit are those who lost their jobs or stopped working two or three years after opting out, before their policies had acquired much value. Some companies continue to levy fixed charges even when no rebate is being invested, so the value of the

small. For those concerned, particularly if they are low earners, the amounts are important and will be even more so by the time they reach retirement.

The problem with making redress voluntary is that the best companies which have probably not done so much harm will volunteer, while the companies which have really ripped people will not.

However, there may be a simpler way of dealing with the matter than calling for a full review, such as letting companies pay a flat amount into policies that are affected.

Philip Telford, senior researcher of the Consumer Association's Money Group, said: "We would not be happy with any proposal by the regulators which resulted in anything less than those who had been mis-sold a personal pension in place of Serps receiving proper compensation. But if another, quicker solution to the problem can be found than a mandatory review, then this may be better for everyone involved - consumers and the pensions industry alike."

"We would certainly be disappointed to see a repeat of the difficulties which have arisen with the review of pension transfers and opt-outs. We hope that lessons have been learned and that any potential problems have already been thrashed out."

Next week the PIA is expected to announce a range of penalties it will impose on those which it identifies as not doing enough. These will include reprimands and fines. Officers may also have to take out press advertisements setting out disciplinary charges against them.

PIA will also be publishing a list of companies that have agreed to waive their limitation rights, so that investors do not lose their legal rights because of the six-year time limit. Most life assurance companies are still extremely nervous about discussing what headway they are making with the pensions review.

One exception is Barclays Life. Nigel Jerome, who is heading up Barclays review

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But you'll probably say you've been too busy to attend to this yourself... or perhaps managing money today just seems too complicated...

Then there's the myth that somewhere out there - if only you could find him - is a friendly, honest person who is going to give you sound and impartial advice on what best to do with your hard-earned money.

THE REALITY is somewhat different. The person you are looking for may not exist! Unless you are already a millionaire - or close to it - there is virtually no such thing as top quality independent financial advice today.

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Take investing in the Stockmarket. Common research clearly shows that most professional investors and advisers - such as stockbrokers and unit trust managers - actually do more poorly than the Stockmarket as a whole.

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Sarah Jones assesses the ups and downs of a popular investment plan

Step with care into escalators

Anyone trailing round the shopping centre with a toddler will know that as soon as you have gone up the escalator you have to look for the down escalator. Investors should bear that in mind when considering the ever-popular escalator bonds. Their capital may not actually go down the down escalator, but there are a few monsters under the up side.

GUARANTEES
Escalator, or step-up, bonds run for three to five years, occasionally longer, and offer an interest rate that is guaranteed to rise, or step up, each year. Interest is paid yearly, or monthly at a slightly lower rate. "All that's happening is that providers are masking lousy current rates with better future rates. In the sure knowledge that rates are going up anyway," says James Higgins of financial advisers Chamberlain de Broe.

Banks and building societies make much of their escalator bond rising to "an outstanding rate" of 9 or 10 per cent in the final year of the bond. They fail to point out that such high rates are more than balanced by low initial rates. It is in the final year that bonds often make a much bigger leap and allow providers to make grand claims. A bond can look more attractive because of a high final rate but averaged out, to take into account lower initial rates, and it is not such a good deal.

TAX
Rates are invariably quoted as gross but, unlike the riskier investment bonds, escalator bonds are taxable. So an average rate of 7.06 per cent becomes 5.65 per cent net.

PENALTIES
The main drawback with esca-

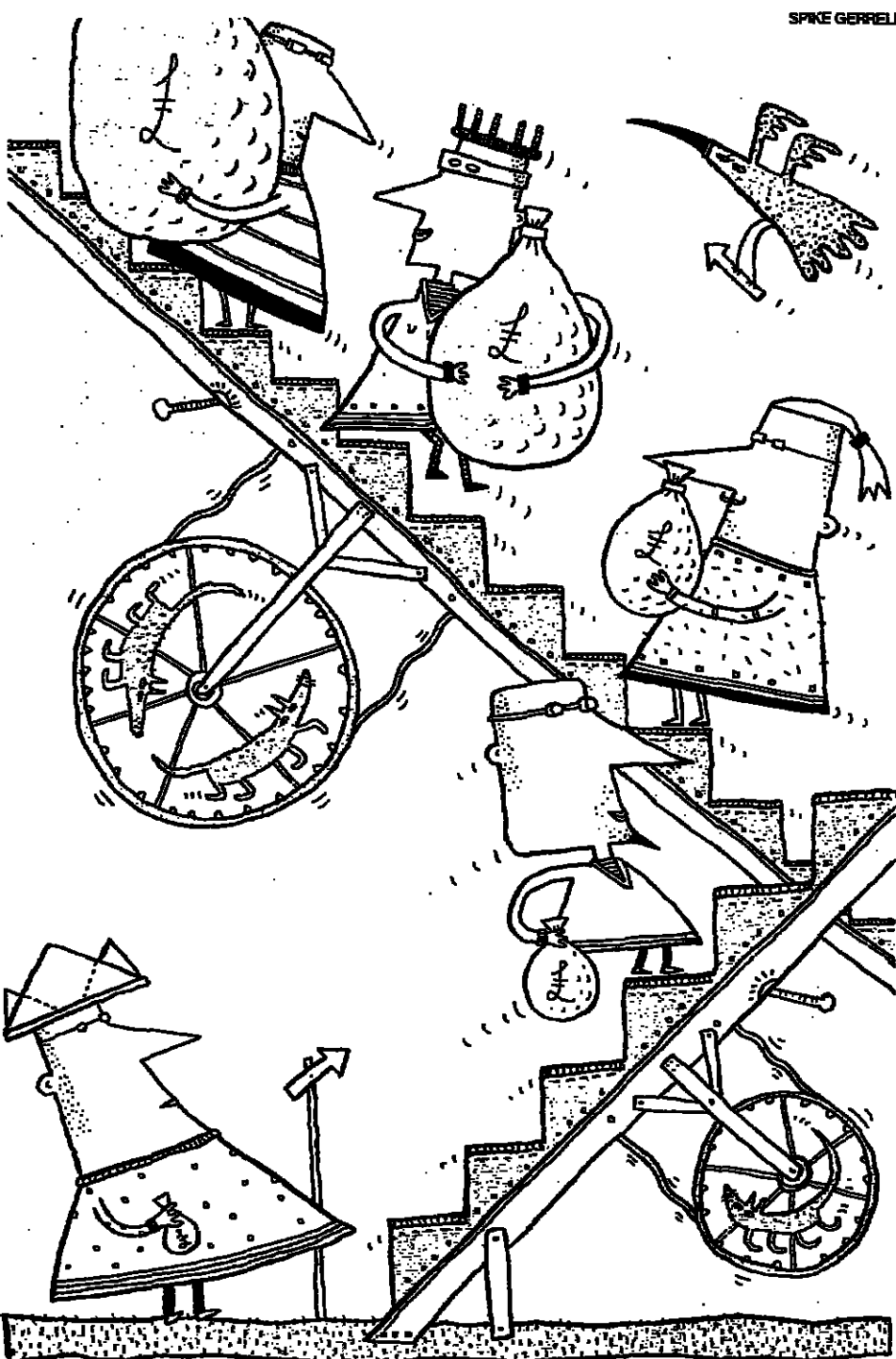
lator bonds is the big lock-in period. Withdraw your investment before the three, four or five-year term is up and you have to pay a hefty penalty. Typically £187 mid-term on a £5,000 balance. No partial withdrawals are allowed and closures are not usually permitted within the first year.

MINIMUM
Escalator bonds also demand a high minimum investment, sometimes £2,000 but more often £5,000. The exceptions are the Portman and Woolwich building societies, at £500 and £1,000 respectively. On average, the Portman pays 6.95 per cent gross and the Woolwich 7 per cent.

This week has seen the launch of a market-leading rate from the Cheshire Building Society. Its new escalator bond pays 6.75 per cent gross in year one (6.50 per cent for monthly interest), increasing to 9.25 per cent (9 per cent monthly) in year four. That averages out at 7.75 per cent gross (7.5 per cent monthly) or 6.2 per cent net (6 per cent monthly).

The minimum balance is £5,000 and the early withdrawal penalty is 180 days' interest at 7.5 per cent. "Past experience tells us that the take up of this new bond will be very quick," says Paul Brennan, the Cheshire's marketing manager. "People are uncertain about interest rates and are looking for guarantees, especially guarantees that go up each year."

WARNING
Once the term is up on your escalator bond make sure you do something with your investment. As with other fixed-term products, such as Tessas, providers transfer your money into an account paying a lower rate of interest.



Savings at First Direct

FIRST DIRECT, the telephone banking service, has launched the Direct Interest Savings Account which offers one free immediate withdrawal per quarter.

This means First Direct customers can now get both a savings account and the option of instant access four times a year with no penalties.

On balances of £1,000 or more the new account gives better rates of interest than the big banks. It replaces the existing 60-Day Notice Account and comes with a quarterly interest statement.

NOP research shows First Direct customers are more likely to take a savings products. Ninety per cent of First Direct account customers have some form of savings against 68 per cent of all current account holders.

ESCALATOR BONDS

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	Min. Balance	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	5th Year
Bank of Ireland (GB)	£5,000	5.00%	5.50%	6.50%	7.50%	12.00%
0171 2362000						
Barclays Bank	£2,000	5.75%	6.00%	6.25%	7.00%	10.00%
0800 400100						
Btm Mile BS	£5,000	5.75%	6.00%	6.50%	7.00%	10.00%
0945 720721						
Cheshire BS	£5,000	6.75%	7.25%	7.75%	9.25%	—
0800 243076						
Coverity BS	£2,000	5.75%	6.25%	7.00%	9.35%	—
01203 252777						
Darlington BS	£2,500	6.25%	6.75%	7.25%	8.00%	—
01383 627727						
Hullfax BS	£2,000	5.75%	6.85%	8.85%	7.85%	9.25%
01422 333333						
Leopold Joseph	£5,000	6.17%	6.70%	8.30%	—	—
0171 582222						
Newcastle BS	£5,000	7.00%	7.25%	8.00%	—	—
0191 2449442						
Sun Banking Corp	£5,000	5.50%	6.00%	7.00%	8.50%	10.00%
01436 744525						

All rates subject to change without notice. Please check all rates before investing. All rates shown Gross but Basic Rate Tax will be deducted from all interest payments unless the investor has registered as a non-taxpayer. Source: Moneyfacts

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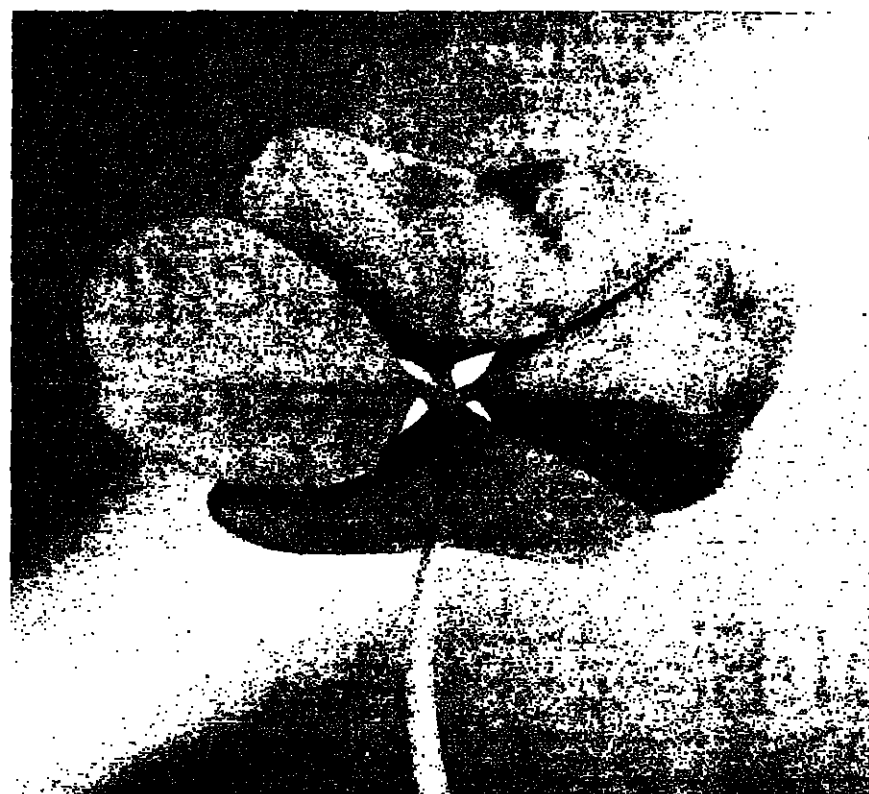
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Software to help with tax calculation

TOO many people are paying too much tax, according to the Consumers' Association, but because their records are incomplete they are unable to check exactly how much they should be paying (Marianne Curphey writes).

However, from now on you are legally obliged to keep a record of all income and capital gains in case you have to complete a tax return.

The Consumers' Association has put together a computer package called TaxCalc 1995-96 which claims to reduce the work involved in calculating tax and complying

with Inland Revenue requirements. On-screen prompts ask you to supply details of your income and outgoings and TaxCalc works out the minimum you are legally obliged to pay the Inland Revenue, and how much the Revenue may owe you.

The programme also lets you display and amend your figures, so you can judge the effects of changes in your circumstances. If you have a printer, you can print out your own Inland Revenue-approved tax returns and partners can even work simultaneously on two returns. It

includes an introduction to the Revenue's new policy of self-assessment and the CD-Rom version of TaxCalc includes the Inland Revenue video on self-assessment.

The programme also features the full text of a number of Inland Revenue tax advice leaflets on topics such as company cars, separation and divorce, and pensions.

TaxCalc also includes a comprehensive glossary and over 45 tax-saving tips. It costs £29.99 or £24.99 for members of the Consumers' Association and is available by calling Freephone 0800 252100.

Sarah Jones
looks into
the pros and
cons of
investing
in football

This week watching shares in football clubs has been as exciting as the players' performances on the pitch.

As Manchester United moved ever closer to the FA Carling Premiership title, and with it the promise of riches in the European superleague, so its shares added 40p.

And as Millwall sank towards the relegation zone, its shares took another dive.

Meanwhile stockbrokers have reported an unprecedented amount of interest in the Chelsea launch on the Alternative Investment Market.

Football clubs are becoming more and more like proper businesses, helped by lucrative television deals, corporate hospitality and strong merchandise sales.

"More clubs are realising that they have got a brand with value and are starting to market that brand," said Justin Urquhart Stewart, of Barclays Stockbrokers.

"Those that are doing well are in fact no longer football clubs but sports and leisure companies," he added. The latest float on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) — Chelsea — is a case in point.

Investors are buying into not just the football club but Chelsea Village Plc, its parent company, which also has catering, clothing and hotel subsidiaries. A health club and gymnasium at the ground are due to open soon. "It won't be long before the ancillary activities are earning more than the football club," said Robert Ellis, Chelsea's stockbroker.

Mr Ellis believes that Chelsea has a bright future. He expects its new development complex to help the club to rival or even surpass Manchester United.

Stockbrokers are surprised by the amount of interest in the Chelsea



Share boosters: Manchester United's Ryan Giggs, left, and Chelsea's Ruud Gullit show on-pitch success is reflected in the price



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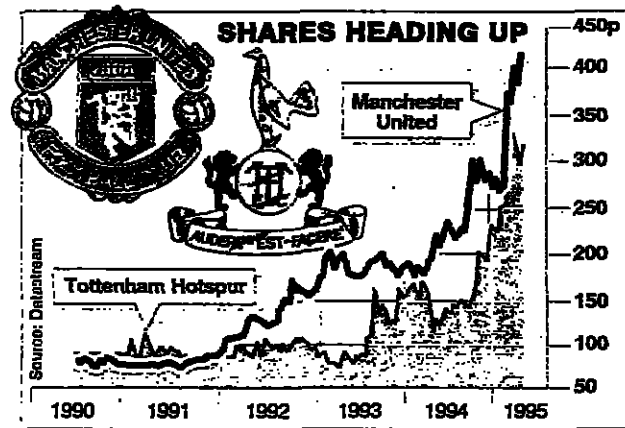
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launch. "The first day we had 400 purchases at Barclays, now it's down to 40 a day but that is remarkable for small market stock," added Mr Urquhart Stewart.

The other clubs quoted on AIM are Glasgow Celtic (whose shares were floated on the market last September at £60 and are currently priced at £105) and Preston North End, which were floated at 400p and are now priced at 430p.

More big clubs are rumoured to be joining them soon. Floating on the Alternative Investment Market is cheaper than on the stock market but still gives a club a higher profile and the chance to raise finance.

If a club can draw fans on to its share register, through



a shareholding, the chances are that they will also attend games regularly and buy the ever-changing strip.

There are three clubs — Manchester United, Tottenham

Hotspur and Millwall — quoted on the stock market. Spurs' shares were launched in 1983 at 100p, reached a low when they were temporarily suspended in 1990 and then with the arrival of goal-scoring Jürgen Klinsmann started rising. They are now 310p.

Shares in Manchester United were offered at 385p in 1991. Within three years they had gained more than £3 and there was a bonus issue of four shares for every one held. This diluted the share price but it has continued to rise, especially as the season reaches its climax. Ten days ago the shares were 287p, now they are 346p.

Millwall's failure is a salutary tale. The shares

were issued at 20p in 1989 but relegation and repeated failure to get back into the Premiership, with all the revenue from higher gates, TV deals and sponsorship that the top flight brings, has seen the shares slump to 2½p. It still matters what a team does on the field. "The greater the reliance on football income, the more volatile the share price will be. But with a club like Manchester United, which is running as a sport and leisurewear company, the share price will be more stable," said Mr Urquhart Stewart.

That leaves all the other clubs. Many will be quoted on Ofex (the unregulated off-exchange market). Transactions are on a matched buyer basis through a stockbroker — if you want to buy 50 shares, someone else must be willing to sell them.

The smaller the club, the more difficult that will be and it is often a matter of contacting the club secretary to see if anyone wants to sell.

So should we invest in football clubs? "Only if you are a devoted fan," said Mr Urquhart Stewart. "Manchester United and Spurs have proved good investments, but with most clubs you'd be better off showing your love and devotion by purchasing a scarf."

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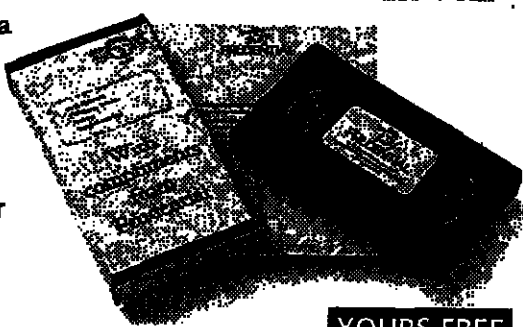
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In fact, the effect of other companies' charges were, on average, 103% more, while in the worst case they were 209% more. (Source: Money Management, October 1995, £200pm 10 year personal pension plans).

So, if you would like to learn about The Equitable's high performance, low cost personal pension plan by post and by telephone, return the coupon below or call (0950) 38 48 58.

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products Regulated by the Financial Investment Authority

THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, Bucks MK21 7BR

I would welcome details on The Equitable's personal plans. I am self-employed ☐ I am an employee not in a company pension scheme ☐

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____

ADDRESS _____

Tel. (Office) _____

Tel. (Home) _____

Date of Birth _____

Postcode _____

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Telephone: 0171-638 0808

Please send me further details as marked above

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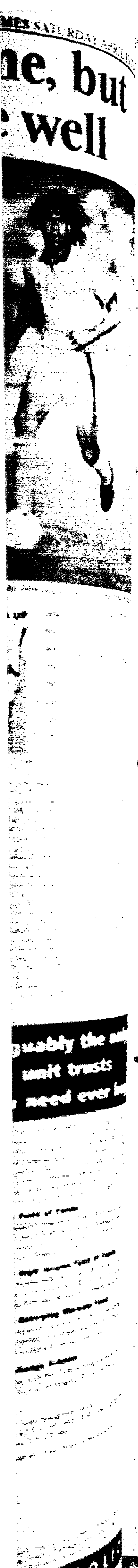
Tel. _____

Date of Birth _____

Regulated 1992

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. Unit trusts fluctuate in value. Portfolio Fund Management Limited is regulated by the Financial Investment Authority and by IMRO. Members of AITF.

PORTFOLIO



Barclays launches schools software

BARCLAYS Bank has launched a PC-based school banking package. There are currently 200 Barclays school banks operating, enabling children to conduct most of the transactions available in a high-street branch, such as paying in their money and requesting a statement.

The PC-based package will provide an additional way for pupils to access their account, at the same time as learning about finance and money management. For more information, call 0800 400100.

□ A guide to pensions, Peps, education mortgages and other ethical investment plans has been published by Eiris, the Ethical Investment Research Service. Money & Ethics examines the ethical policies of 28 unit and investment trusts and compares the funds against a common set of criteria, with topics ranging from water pollution to animal testing. The handbook includes a step-by-step guide to choosing the fund that most closely meets your ethical needs. Send a cheque for £12.50, payable to Eiris, 504 Bondway Business Centre, 71 Bondway, London SW8 1SQ.

□ Pensioners could be mis-

ing out on as much as £600 million a year in unclaimed welfare benefits, according to Help the Aged's latest booklet, *Can You Claim It?* The booklet emphasises that it is important to claim, even if a pensioner is only entitled to a small amount, as it is the passport to a range of other benefits including free dental treatment and sight tests.

The charity has also produced a *Claiming Disability Benefits* guide, which provides details of the benefits that are available for senior citizens who are sick or disabled, and for their carers.

For a free copy of both booklets, send a self-addressed envelope to: The Information Department (Bens), Help the Aged, St James's Walk, London, EC1R 0BE.

□ The *Eiris & Young Tax Saver's Companion 1996* provides up to date tax information, including changes announced in the November 1995 Budget and 1996 Finance Bill. The guide highlights tax-saving opportunities and offers advice on self-assessment and financial planning. Available in bookshops from April 25, priced at £9.99.

LIZANNE ROSE

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Instant Access Accounts				
Portman BS 01202 289444	Instant Access	£100	4.80	Y/y
Stipston BS 01786 700511	Instant	£2,500	5.10	Y/y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Postal	£5,000	6.25	A/y
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2438292	Postal	£10,000	5.60	Y/y

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Notice Accounts & Bonds				
Nwch & Pthrbg BS 01738 391497	Postal 10	£10,000	6.10	Y/y
Coventry BS 0246 665522	Postal 50	£2,000	5.45	Y/y
Scarbrough BS 0800 590878	Scarbrough 75	£1,000	6.30	Y/y
Cheltenham BS 0800 272505	120 Account	£25,000	6.75	Y/y

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
First TESSAS (TAX FREE)				
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	5 year	£8,575	7.40	F/y
Cheltenham & Gloucester 0800 717505	5 year	£3,000	7.25	Y/y
Birmingham Midshires 0845 720721	5 year	£1,000	7.25	Y/y
Principality BS 01222 344188	5 year	£25	7.25	Y/y

Card type	Interest per month	APR	Fee per annum
CREDIT CARDS			
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.92% C	11.50%
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.00%
Fitzwilliam Bank 0800 573191	MasterCard/Visa	1.77%	16.10%

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Yorkshire Bank 0113 2315324	14.60%	£117.68	£102.09
First National 0141 414065	14.30% E	£114.41	£102.59
Midland Bank 0800 180180	14.90%	£115.82	£102.49

NB: A = 2% bonus if Account opened by 30.4.96, C = no interest free period, D = for debt consolidation only, E = Available to Comprehensive Office Insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), G = Annual rate 5% above R Planning basic rate, OM denotes interest paid on monthly, P = By Post only.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01652 500 877)

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Card type	Interest per month	APR	Fee per annum
CREDIT CARDS			
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.92% C	11.50%
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.00%
Fitzwilliam Bank 0800 573191	MasterCard/Visa	1.77%	16.10%

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FIXED RATE

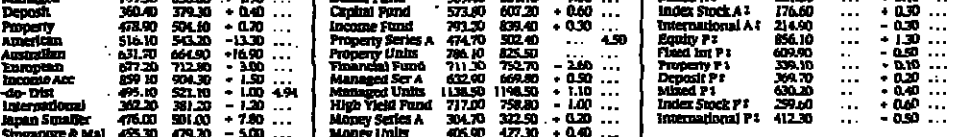
Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase
FIXED RATE				
Birmingham Midshires 9.375%	97.49	9.607	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley 11.625%	119.54	9.713	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley 13.000%	138.83	9.697	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West 13.375%	138.47	9.643	100.34	1,000
Britannia 13.000%	132.40	9.802	100.42	1,000
Coventry 12.125%	125.37	9.648	100.75	1,000
First National 11.750%	115.14	10.197	100.25	10,000
Halifax 8.750%	92.74	9.435	100.62	50,000
Halifax 12.000%	124.67	9.428	100.28	50,000
Halifax 14.250%	142.73	9.522	100.10	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck 13.375%	137.27	9.725	100.23	1,000
Newcastle 10.750%	113.79	9.435	100.32	1,000
Newcastle 12.625%	133.21	9.455	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock 12.625%	135.89	9.271	100.14	1,000
Stipston 12.875%	133.15	9.652	100.48	1,000

Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase
FLOATING RATE				
Cheshire (28/09-21/03) 8.5875%	103.63	100.00	1,000	1,000
First National (21/03-20/09) 8.70625%	100.63	100.00	1,000	1,000

PBS = Permanent Interest-bearing Shares

Source: ABN AMRO Home Govest - 0171 601 0101

SHARE IN FOCUS - AMEC PRE-TAX PROFITS DROP



Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01652 500 877)

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes
LARGER LOANS				
Building Societies				
Bristol & West	0.95	£15k+	90	Fixed to 31.1.97
0800 100117				
Northern Rock	0.99	to £100k	90	6.25% discount to 1.5.97
0800 591 500				
Yorkshire	0.74	to £150k	95	6% disc-6 mths, 2% disc-18 mths
0800 378895				
Banks				
Barclays	3.50	£15k+	90	3.75% discount for 12 months
0800 494969				
NatWest	1.75	£15k+	90	5.50% discount for 12 months
0800 400999				

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BASE RATES V MORTGAGES



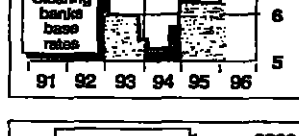
Clearing bank base rate

91 92 93 94 95 96

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Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01652 500 877)

FT-SE 100



Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01652 500 877)

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01652 500 877)

PENSION ANNUITIES

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01652 500 877)

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01652 500 877)

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When the system fails to offer an explanation for loss

From Mr W. Dorward

Sir, Your article on cheque clearance ("What a difference a day makes, *Weekend Money*, March 30) might be supplemented by reference to the experience of those who, like me, have monthly remittances sent directly from an overseas bank to a UK bank, in my case Barclays.

My pension is paid into the Standard Chartered Bank in Hong Kong. By standing order, I have a certain sum remitted by airmail, bank to bank, on the first of the month.

An advice is sent to me from the bank in Hong Kong at the same time and usually arrives about the sixth or seventh of the month, so it is reasonable to assume that the Standard Chartered Bank's cheque reaches Barclays Bank the same day.

It generally appears on my statement at the end of the month as having been credited about the eighth of the month, but, on the odd occasion when I have needed the funds urgently, I have been advised that in fact it takes up to five working days to clear and is not available for that time or most of it.

Leaving aside the valid question as to why it should take five days to clear a bank cheque, I also wonder who has my money between the time it is debited to my account in Hong Kong on the first of the month and the time it is

available for my use about the fifteenth. It must be somewhere. Yours faithfully, WILLIAM DORWARD, Waulkmill, Skirling, Biggar, Lanarkshire.

From Mr W. Farrar

Sir, This letter is prompted by the article (*Weekend Money*, March 30) on cheque clearance allied to snail-mail.

On January 11 I posted a £4,000 personal cheque from Pontefract to C&G by post at Fareham, Hampshire. It was in a C&G 1st class prepaid window envelope, with the address machine printed on the enclosed paying-in slip.

Case for Pensioners Guaranteed Bonds

From Mr O. Hare

Sir, I refer to Mr Shock's letter of March 30 concerning National Savings Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bonds. Even at 7 per cent (earlier this year, the rate on Series 2 was 7.5 per cent) the choice between them and gilts seems to me debatable, since there is no commission to pay on buying or selling (as there is with gilts purchased through the National Savings Stock Register), the interest is paid monthly, as opposed to half-yearly, and the penalty of 60 days loss of interest on encashment before the expiry date may well be considerably less than would be forfeited following an enforced sale of

C&G received it on February 21 (almost six weeks later) via the Royal Mail dead-letter office in Belfast!

The Royal Mail's explanation (excuse?) was that the address was partly obscured, but admitted that the delay was too long, the turnaround at that time being ten days. I wonder if the item just got lost in the system (eg, stuck at the bottom of a mailbox). Whatever it was, I am the poorer by the loss of interest over six weeks, for which the Royal Mail accepts no responsibility. Yours faithfully, WALTER FARRAR, 1 Barnsley Road, Ackworth, Pontefract.

the gilts before redemption date.

Yours faithfully, OWEN HARE, 32 Trafalgar Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Letters or information for *Weekend Money* may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime telephone number. *The Times* regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice and asks that original documents are not sent in. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Handout? Handout? Oh the 1½% handout

From Mr R. Ellis

Sir, (Revenue has eye on £17 billion handouts, March 23). When, in 1988, the Bolton Building Society merged with C&G and, in 1991, the Southampton Building Society was taken over, I benefited by a

misericord 1½ per cent in each case and tax was deducted at 25 per cent. So what's new? Yours sincerely, REGINALD ELLIS, 4 Ringstead Court, Ringstead Road, Sutton, Surrey.

'Massive handouts' means our own little mass: Shareholders will each get what amounts to seven and six of the old money. That's after tax



Alternative route to US rental car insurance

From Mr M. Millwood

Sir, The plight of Mr France and Ms Pilkington concerning their motor accident in the US and the subsequent threat of litigation for which Mr France is not insured ("The right route for US car insurance", March 23) prompts me to reveal to your readers a cheap way to avoid such problems.

While collision damage waiver for small and medium-sized rental cars in the US is currently \$13.99 a day or £61 a week, if purchased with your car company in this country it can be secured for £5.50 a

day through the Swire Fraser Insurance Company. The essential "top up" insurance, not purchased by Mr France and giving liability cover for up to \$1 million, can be purchased for £55 for a 15-day holiday from the same insurance company.

By using them for a 15-day rental of a medium-sized car the cost is £132, against £210 quoted by tour companies. Yours sincerely, MIKE MILLWOOD, 15 Bay View Road, Benllich, Ynys Mon.

Unit-linked loser asks why

From Mr N. Uberoi

Sir, with reference to the comment (March 30) on Clerical Medical's change of heart. I have had a 10-year savings plan since 1988, with only two years to maturity but am excluded from the takeover bonus as it is unit-linked.

I am a long-term customer who has contributed to Clerical Medical's wealth... as well as the with-profits holders. Why am I excluded? Yours sincerely, NEEL UBEROI, "Woodlands", Firs Road, Kenley, Surrey.

PRIVATISATION PERFORMANCES

SHARE	ISSUE DATE	CHANGE ON ISSUE PRICE AS OF 31.1.96 (%)
Amersham	February 1982	486.82
Assoc. British Ports	February 1983	735.71
	April 1984	246.87
British Aerospace	July 1981	494.67
	September 1985	137.87
British Airports Authority	July 1987	296.73
British Airways	February 1987	323.60
British Gas	December 1986	77.04
British Petroleum	June 1977	650.71
	October 1979	336.78
	September 1983	264.48
	October 1987	60.15
British Steel	December 1988	37.40
British Telecom	December 1984	174.23
	December 1991	6.42
	July 1993	-13.05
Cable and Wireless	November 1981	1487.50
	November 1983	546.55
	March 1985	202.90
Enterprise Oil	June 1984	98.92
Rolls-Royce	May 1987	20.00
National Power	March 1991	149.14
	February 1995	28.24
PowerGen	March 1991	193.71
	February 1995	38.92
Scottish Power	June 1991	58.33
Scottish Hydro	June 1991	47.92
Northern Ireland Elec.	June 1993	88.18
Regional Elec. Companies		
Eastern Electricity Plc	November 1990	306.25
East Midlands Electricity Plc	November 1990	155.31
London Electricity Plc	November 1990	158.57
Manweb Plc	November 1990	312.50
Midlands Electricity Plc	November 1990	225.00
Northern Electricity Plc	November 1990	146.25
NORWEB Plc	November 1990	
SEEBBOARD Plc	November 1990	348.17
Southern Electric Plc	November 1990	245.00
South Wales Electricity Plc	November 1990	253.75
South Western Electricity Plc	November 1990	302.08
Yorkshire Electricity Grp Plc	November 1990	199.58
Water Companies		
Anglian Water Plc	November 1989	135.63
Northumbrian Water Grp Plc	November 1989	381.25
North West Water Group Plc	November 1989	
Severn Trent Plc	November 1989	157.50
Southern Water Plc	November 1989	186.67
South West Water Plc	November 1989	108.33
Thames Water Plc	November 1989	128.25
Welsh Water Plc	November 1989	227.50
Wessex Water Plc	November 1989	39.58
Yorkshire Water Plc	November 1989	155.00
National Grid	December 1995	-1.47

1 Taken over by Hanson @ 975p
2 Taken over by Scottish Power @ 990p
3 Merged with North West Water
4 Taken over by Central & Western of USA @ 535.4p
5 Merging with Welsh Water
6 Taken over by Southern Electric of USA @ 985p
7 Taken over by Lyonnaisse @ 1175p
8 Merged with Norweb to form United Utilities
9 Merging with South Wales Electricity
Source: *Privatisation, The Facts* published by Price Waterhouse
More detailed privatisation statistics next week

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Anachronistic opening should soothe fevered brows amid clamour for change

Limbering up for a season of uncertainty

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IT IS an apologetic start for a potentially apocalyptic cricket season. Public clamour for change in the game is at fever pitch and the demand is for a tearing down of all things traditional. Yet, on a chilly second Saturday of April, anachronism is defiantly sustained as the first-class programme opens — with a game between Oxford University and Leicestershire.

There were years when this was a comforting ritual, as gently springlike as the smell of new-mown grass, but that was in less turbulent times. Now, in the violent backwash of a World Cup that concentrated minds on the inadequacies of English cricket as seldom before, there is something frustratingly footling about the season starting with an inconsequential and largely unnoticed shiver in The Parks.

The witnesses to this ancient and obsolete tradition will be the usual mixture of enthusiasts emerging from hibernation, noting their attendance like trainspotters marking down another engine and ruminating on many a previous opening day. The occasion, and the setting, are quintessentially English, which is the abiding dilemma for the proponents of modernism and revolution.

Like it or not, there is still a unique attraction about the measured tread of the domestic season. There is even something quaint, almost worth preservation, about the triviality in Oxford today, but, if quality control were imposed, little would survive.

It is the heightened awareness of this that will dominate the coming months, for all cricket this season is destined to be played in a studied limbo, rather like a decaying house with a disputed demolition order.

One of the standing jokes about cricket in England is that nothing ever changes, yet there is evident scope for 1996 to alter that perception.

Behind the familiar scenes, activity will be focused on two significant fronts — the administration of the game at all levels in England and the management and preparation of the national team. By the autumn, substantial streamlining should have taken place in both areas. If it has not, those responsible will have the state of English cricket on their consciences.

Soon, we are assured, the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), with its unwieldy chains of command and its tendency to a self-sustaining parochialism, will give way to a new and better body, the English Cricket Board. The difference remains unfathomable to most, but, if it achieves nothing else, it must bestow decision-making powers on its executives to bypass the bureaucratic bottleneck that so impedes advancement in the game.

Simultaneously, and with far greater public appreciation, the working party chaired by David Acfield is trying to identify how the declining fortunes of the England team can be arrested and reversed. There is a small, select gathering with a formidable assignment: at the very least, they deserve the guarantee that their recommendations will be respected, by the counties who must consider them, rather more than the binned and pigeon-holed offerings of previous such committees.

In fairness, there are distinct signs of stirring in the shires. For too long, too many counties have concerned themselves with their local priorities even at the evident expense of the national inter-



Richard Shula, head groundsman at The Parks, spent yesterday preparing for the start of the cricket season. Oxford University meet Leicestershire today

est. Perhaps this is changing, judging by the encouraging acceptance of three points for a draw in the county championship this year, and of playing games from Wednesday to Saturday, without the ludicrous interruption of a 40-overs game, as from next year.

These may seem minor changes, but they represent a notable shift of thinking, an acknowledgement that all is not well; and it is by such finetuning that benefits will accrue, rather than by the apologetic blustering that has unhappily raged since England returned home prematurely from the World Cup.

In a few weeks, the game has suffered the shambles of an aborted election for the

chairmanship of the selection committee and, now, potential chaos from a gratuitously over-subscribed application list of selectors. This has been accompanied by such a chorus of unhelpful and often uninformed rhetoric from the chairman and chief executives of various counties that fresh directives on those who should make public comments, and when, can shortly be expected from the disciplinary arm of the TCCB.

It has been a troubled start to spring, the dice have too high, the logic too low. Maybe, after all, it needs a day like today, in that timelessness, that country-in-the-city feel of The Parks, to soothe some fevered brows.

Wintry outlook at The Parks

THE bad weather that returned yesterday threw up the prospect of an opening day at The Parks spent watching the rain streaking down the pavilion windows, with intervals for the occasional watery pitch inspection and three-sweater forays to loosen up on the outfield.

Oxfordshire cricket may be discredited as a first-class force, but the counties show no rush to give up on their early-season visits. Opportunities beckon for young players, among them Gregor Macmillan and Darren Maddy, who will open the

innings for Leicestershire. Macmillan, who led Oxford to victory in the University match last year, scoring an unbeaten hundred, starts his first full county season despite the handicap of a hairline fracture in his hand.

Maddy gets his chance to establish himself after Nigel Briers, who stepped down as Leicestershire captain at the end of last season, was ruled out for the first two months of the campaign after knee surgery. Oxford are captained this year by Chinmay Gupta.

Mark Benson, the Kent captain, will miss the start of

the season because of a knee injury sustained in training. Kent begin with a Benson and Hedges Cup tie against British Universities on April 26.

India, the first of the summer's touring teams, continued their indifferent one-day form yesterday with a 38-run defeat by Pakistan in the opening match of the Sharjah one-day tournament.

Aamir Sohail, leading Pakistan in the absence of the injured Wasim Akram, laid the foundation for his side's victory with a century off 127 balls, his fifth hundred in limited-overs internationals.

Britain fail to learn lessons of defeats on world stage

FROM NORMAN DE MESQUITA IN EINDHOVEN

GREAT Britain's ice hockey players had a rest from world championship competition here yesterday, although they did practise. The need to eliminate unnecessary penalties when they face Poland and Holland today and tomorrow should have been their priority.

After another rest day on Monday, Britain face Japan on Tuesday and, to survive in pool B, must win at least two of these three games. It was interesting that, after their 6-1 loss to Latvia, the Japan coaching staff said that they were satisfied with their team's performance and described it as a learning experience.

So far, Britain appear to have learnt nothing and the lack of discipline in the first two games has cost them dear. In those games, opponents have been given 17 power plays and seven of the 13 goals conceded have come with a Britain player in the penalty box.

The average age of the squad is another factor in the disappointing performances and Peter Woods, the coach, chose to play Paul Dixon, 22, rather than Terry Kurtenbach, 33, in the final period of the game against Switzerland.

It is time that some attention was paid to the future and room must be found in the squad for talented young British-born and trained players rather than ageing Canadians, many of whom are only in Britain because they were not good enough to forge a significant career in Canada.

The future of the domestic game continues to be clouded in uncertainty, but it could become clearer after a meeting in Blackpool this weekend, that will be attended by those clubs not in the proposed Super League.

The Super League is back to seven teams with the addition of Ayr, but exactly when their 3,000-seat Centrum will be ready seems to be yet another unknown factor. After ten years of stability, British ice hockey seems not to know where exactly it is going and some positive news is overdue.

Coaches in collision with forces of law and order

I THINK, as sporting assaults go, that one policeman equals two referees, so I had better give these stories equal billing. The policeman was allegedly assaulted by the coach of Real Betis football team in Spain; the referees by the coach of Lethbridge Hurricanes ice hockey team in Canada (so they do notice such things out there).

First to Spain, where Lorenzo Serra Ferrer, the Real Betis team coach, was given a parking ticket by a policeman who supported their city rivals, Sevilla. Ferrer reacted angrily, and was locked up for four hours, accused of kicking the copper; the coach denies it. "The whole incident is because of the pain of our 21-point advantage over Sevilla," Manuel Ruiz de Lopera, the Real Betis owner, said. He said that the policeman was responsible for the fact that Real Betis dropped a couple of points by drawing 2-2 with Racing Santander last weekend. Incidentally, Diego himself was once briefly a Sevilla player; he was given a speeding ticket by a policeman who supported Real Betis.

Meanwhile, up in moose country, Bryan Maxwell, coach of the Hurricanes, was a trifle upset after two late penalties allowed Regina Pats to sneak a 6-5 victory. Maxwell took on both Brent Reiber, the referee, and Jeff Klick, a linesman. He has been suspended for a year and fined Can\$1,000 (£500). He has been banned from attending games until February 1997. He is also due to appear in court next month, charged with uttering threats. Herman Elfring, the Hurricanes' president, said that he was disappointed at the length of the suspension.

Lend a hand

No sign of John Major's cricket bat in the Long Room at Lords, but the baseball glove of George Bush, the former United States President, is to go on show in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Bush played first base for Yale in 1947 and 1948. He was captain, and the team won the National College Athletic Association Championship in both years. Bush played 51 games

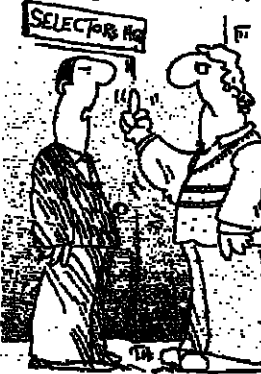
SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

and had a batting average of 251 with 23 RBIs.

Doubtful digit

Now for news of the most important single finger in the history of sport. Its owner is, of course, Shane Warne ... and the nature of the golden digit's continuous state of injury has become one of life's great mysteries. Now, Warne is planning a trip to the United States for laser treatment. "Definitely not a desperation move," Warne said; but he confesses to worry: "I want to get back to bowling my main delivery, the big leg

I hope it's just your poorly finger you're showing me, Mr. Warne.



break. It is the ball I have built my game around, but it is also the ball that seems to have done some damage to the finger. The sooner it is fixed, the better. A lot of people seem to be talking about my spinning finger and just what is wrong. I have to say I have had just about enough of it all."

Price of progress

This column will not be taking part in the Flora London Marathon next weekend. The event, one of sport's instant traditions, seems always to have been with us, always the same, but this is not quite true.

The winning woman will get \$55,000 (about £37,500); with appearance money and time bonuses, it could be a great deal more. If Liz McColgan wins in a very fast time, she could be on for \$200,000. In 1981, the prize for the first woman home was a watch ... and the prize for the third place, feminists everywhere, was an iron.

Scoring again

I have not mentioned Pelé's vasectomy for ages. You will be delighted to learn that the operation to reverse it seems to have been a complete success. At the age of 55, he is to become a father again.

Comfort food

In this country, we have still barely scratched the surface of the true purpose of attending sporting events. In the United States, they are much clearer: sport is about eating. Take San Francisco Giants. They may not be terribly good at baseball — they are expected to finish bottom of the National League West — but they have responded to a poor playing record by going for the most elaborate menu in sport. Foot-long hotdogs? Fair. At what is now 3-Com Park, formerly Candlestick Park, you can eat calamari, grilled ahi, lime-scented pork and tomato chutney, fajita salad, and chicken breast and corn chutney in cumin-infused broth. I hope losing is good for the digestion.

Flag fatality

Now for a grim one. Recently, Daniel Tosques, a supporter of the Uruguayan team, Nacional, was shot dead at a football match. He was trying to protect an 11-year-old boy, whose flag was being stolen by Cerro fans. Now, someone has been accused of his murder: a 15-year-old boy.

King leads domestic challenge at Belton

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

MARY KING, a winner of a team gold medal and an individual bronze at the European three-day event championships in Italy last year, will give King William and Star Appeal, her Olympic Games contenders, a final outing before Badminton at the Belton Pedigree Churn Horse Trials in Lincolnshire this weekend.

Belton's big, technical course provides ideal preparation for Badminton and the trials have attracted most of the sport's leading names. Lucy Thompson, of Ireland, the European champion, and Mark Todd, of New Zealand, the dual Olympic champion, lead the overseas challenge.

British riders include William Fox-Pitt and Ian Stark, winners of their sections at Brigstock last week, and Kristina Gifford and Charlotte Bathe, members of the gold medal-winning team in Italy last year.

King, whose first child, Emily, was born at the end of January, has barely been out of action. She was riding two weeks after the birth, and last month, won at Dyrnes Hall, on King William, and was third, on Star Appeal, her 1995 Punctestown winner.

This weekend, if the going is as good as expected, King will let both horses "bowl on". With Karen Dixon (Too Smart and Get Smart) and Gifford (Midnight Blue and General Jock), King has a chance of being selected for Atlanta for both the individual and team contests.

Todd looks to have one of the best chances this weekend with Bertie Blunt, one of his two Badminton entries and a winner at Belton last year. Though successful in one-day horse trials, the partnership has yet to complete a four-star event. At Bughley two years ago, Todd was eliminated after missing out a flag on the roads and tracks phase. At Badminton last year, where Todd rode most of the cross-country with only one stirrup, Bertie Blunt failed the final horse inspection.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

Amateur champion learns Masters lesson on eve of professional career

Sherry joins Friday trunk slammers



ANDREW LONGMORE
At The Masters

The Kilmarnock FC cap will have to be consigned to the shelf along with the amateur status. This morning, Gordon Sherry can wake up, shout into the shaving mirror "I am a professional" and start piling up his first million. From now on, the cap will be home to sponsors' logos only and the head full of the habitually anxious thoughts of the professional golfer.

The change was not meant to occur this early. Monday morning was the scheduled moment for crossing the bar, but the Augusta National golf course had the final say, reducing the British Amateur champion to the same fate as most of his predecessors and lending him perspective to some of the wider claims made on his behalf. Bob Torrance even suggested the young Scot could win the tournament. For all his natural modesty and good humour, Sherry half believed it.

"In one sense, it's been the worst experience of my golfing life," he said. "I haven't shot scores like that for four years. But in the long term, it will stand me in good stead. The most important thing now is that I can concentrate on my career."

Reality dawned early on the opening day, which ended in a 78, and yesterday's honourable round of 77 was not nearly good enough to banish the two most dreaded words in the professionals' vocabulary — missed cut. Or, as they say in the States, a trunk slammer, the term a reference to slamming the boot shut on a Friday night with the clubs inside. He may as well start getting the lingo right.

To be fair to Sherry, he was just beginning to get the life of the land when the land ran out. Another two days of education and he might have become the first British amateur to break par for a round, because he was striking the ball well enough and often into

the right places. His outward half was one over, six shots better than his first attempt, and included three missed birdie putts, the sort that will need to drop if he is to make a living as a professional.

But a horrible second shot to the 10th green for a five set the tone for the final holes and a tap-in for bogey on the 18th was not quite the dashing end to his amateur days Sherry would have wished for. At least, he was still allowed the luxury of laughing at his fate, for all his disappointment. His purse is no lighter than it was on Thursday morning. He has no children waiting at home to be fed, no mortgage to pay, nobody depending on him to hit fairways and sink putts.

The only unfulfilled expectation will be his own.

For the second day, Sherry was paired with Fred Couples, which is unusual. In contrast to the other majors, the Masters reverts to pairings by scoring order on the second day not the third. So players rarely have the same partner twice. But the former Masters champion had matched Sherry bogey for bogey in the first round and stayed in his company for the second. They made an odd couple. Sherry, 21 and 6ft 8in, with a shuffling gait and a ready smile; Couples, nine inches shorter and 15 years older, ever neat, elegant and nonchalant. You can never tell whether Couples is winning or losing. He seems to be whistling either way.

Two days trying to unravel Augusta gave the pair a common bond, like fellow puzzlers despairing over a 2,000-piece jigsaw. Sherry doffed his cap and bowed when Couples chipped in for a much-needed birdie on the 3rd, and Couples told Sherry he would do fine in his new career.

Sherry's new life starts at Bergamo in the Italian Open next month. In the meantime, he will return to Stirling University to rest, complete the formalities of his course in bio-chemistry and, most probably, put his signature to one of a number of contracts earned by his exploits over the past year. In practical terms, turning professional involves nothing more complicated than announcing the fact to himself this morning and paying a £2,000 fee to the Euro-



Sherry tees off at the 2nd in his improved second round at Augusta yesterday, but the Scot still missed the cut

pean Tour for affiliate membership. Then it is up to him. Sponsors will invite him to tournaments, a maximum of seven in the year, and Sherry will need to make about £50,000 from them to win his players' card automatically for next year.

If not, he will have to qualify through the tour school, an ignominy which will make two sunny days in Augusta seem no more than a hazy dream. Actually playing like a pro, thinking like a pro, turning the golf course from a playpen into an office, a pastime into a business, will involve rather more than even Sherry might have anticipated. There will be many days

when the routine does not encourage a smile or a joke nor the sort of mollycoddling he has enjoyed in Augusta. "I'll definitely be back, though whether it will be next year or not, I don't know," he said. "The Italian Open is the most important tournament for me this year — I still haven't earned anything yet."

Harrow suffer surprise defeat

BY MEL WEBB

The Halford Hewitt Cup is one of those golf competitions that the cynical might call anachronistic, out of date; in short, a bit of a sporting dinosaur. Those who care about the traditions of the game would say something quite different, and they would be right.

The Halford Hewitt, run by the Public Schools' Golfing Society, is a foursomes matchplay event that has been played at this time of year since 1924, apart from the period between 1940 and 1946, when the British were engaged in another matchplay event — winner takes all.

It is probably the biggest event of its kind anywhere, and seems to imbue all who play in it with the intention, come hell or high water, to keep coming back for more. It is cosy, certainly, a touch incestuous even, but, to experience its uniquely clubbable atmosphere is to understand its powers of attraction.

More often than not, the event clashes with another small golfing occasion on the other side of the Atlantic. No matter what is going on in Augusta, however, the Halford Hewitt is not, its players and organisers insist, a moveable feast.

The event is held, for the first two days at least, at Royal St George's in Sandwich and Royal Cinque Ports down the road at Deal, the latter of which hosts the final two days.

The weather in this part of Kent at this time of year is not noted for its even temper, but that does not put off the old boys of the nation's public schools. It was at educational establishments such as these that the stiff upper lip was invented.

The second round of the competition, yesterday, brought one small surprise when Charterhouse defeated Harrow, the 1995 champions. 3-2. It is not that Cartians are unused to success in this competition — they have won it 14 times — but it was the first time that they have beaten their old rivals since the war. No matter what happens now, Charterhouse have already carved the notch in their bow that they prize above all others.

Garcia's goals put gloss on victory

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN ATLANTA

GREAT Britain could reflect on a job well done yesterday after opening their campaign in the six nations' hockey tournament here with a 5-2 defeat of the United States. They had made a winning start to what will be a demanding tournament and survived the challenges posed by the practice pitch at the Clarke University stadium.

With the stadium's main pitch still undergoing final preparations, the practice pitch staged the event's opening three matches and Britain had the benefit of watching Pakistan beat Argentina 4-1 and India score three goals without reply against South Korea before taking the field themselves. Indeed, Mansoor-ul-Hassan, the Pakistan coach, complained that the pitch had not been properly watered, the surface was bumpy and that ball control was difficult, leaving the British in no doubt about the conditions they were to face.

The skill level of Britain's States was consequently low, but a cat-and-mouse affair ended in a decisive victory. By half-time, Britain had established a 1-0 lead, through Robert Thompson, but that was cancelled out four minutes into the second half by Amar. Further misfortune was to follow with Garcia putting a penalty stroke against a post. However, Thompson restored the lead and Giles, showing personal relish, converted a short corner to make it 3-1. The advantage was suddenly cut by a well-taken goal from El Maghraby, a former Egypt international, before Garcia wrapped things up with two late goals.

With luck, Britain should play their next match today against Pakistan on a newly-laid artificial turf main pitch, on which the contractors have been working flat out over the past couple of days. Although Shahbaz Ahmed, the renowned Pakistan captain, is not with the team because of domestic problems, the ease with which Pakistan scored four goals in the second half should be a grim reminder of their potential.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

PARIS: European club championship. Third-place play-off: CSKA Moscow 74 Real Madrid 73. Final: Panathinaikos 67 Barcelona 66.

CRICKET

SHARJAH: United Arab Emirates. Sharjah Cup (50 overs): Pakistan 271-5 (Imran Khan 106), India 233 (N Mongia 69). Pakistan beat India by 38 runs.

CYCLING

BASQUE TOUR: (108km) Vito to Lucumbert. 1. F. Frattini (I) 39.10min. 2. L. Jambert (F) 39.11. 3. D. Rabotin (I) 39.12. 4. M. de Bakker (N) 39.13. 5. P. Herve (F) 39.14. 6. S. Serrano (S) 39.15. 7. P. Herve (F) 39.16. 8. L. Jambert (I) 39.17. 9. P. Herve (F) 39.18. 10. L. Jambert (I) 39.19.

FOOTBALL

PONTIS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Nottingham Forest 1 Leeds United 1.

1. Wolverhampton 1. Tottenham 2. Second division: Bradford 2. Sunderland 3.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Bath 2. Newport A.F.C. 0.

UNION LEAGUE: Premier division: Postlewood 1. Knowlsey 1. Manne 1.

100 LEAGUE: First division: Ballymore 3. Barking 0. Third division: Aveley 1.

Wokingham 1. Epsom and Ewell 1. Tipton 1.

Culston 1. Trophy: Semi-final replay: Hungerford 1. Canvey Island 2.

SPRINGHEATH PRIZE: Capital League: Reading 1. Scunthorpe 3.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Merthyr 3. Bedford 5.

ENGLISH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Nuneaton 1. Southam 1.

Mansley 1. West Midlands First Services 1. Northfield 2. Olton Royals 2.

Upton 0. St Albans 3. S.L. 3.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS FESTIVALS: North: Tynedale 1. Northam 7. North Tynedale 1. 1. Ockham 0. Newcastle 3.

Rother Valley A 1. North Tynedale A 1.

Bradford A 1. Ockham A 0. Ockham A 1.

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Metronome pacemaker device signals start of training revolution

Stroke of genius gives Briton head start for Atlanta

Prized among the possessions that Paul Palmer, the swimmer, packed this morning before leaving Lincoln for Atlanta is the training partner from heaven: a prototype pacemaker for the healthy, a British invention that is said to bleed to a winning rhythm and that may become as familiar a friend to joggers and cyclists as the world over as the personal stereo.

None in Great Britain can match the 400 metres freestyle pace of Palmer, 21, a European silver medal-winner and one of Britain's best medal prospects in the Olympic pool in July. In the absence of company, Palmer, the former European junior champion, has been happy to play guinea pig for the Electronic Programmable Training Device, a working title that Patrick Miley, the inventor, a former Army captain who flies helicopters to and from North Sea oil rigs, is keen to replace with a more marketable name.

The micro-computer allows Ian Turner, Palmer's coach, to act as pilot on the poolside. The hand-held unit, not unlike a television remote controller, pre-programmes a sound unit that is attached to the swimmer's head and emits beeps of different frequencies to set the pace at which Palmer must rotate his arms, while telling him when he should have reached his turn in order to hit his target.

The gadgetry brings to an end the long era of the pace clock. For swimmers, who



Craig Lord takes a look at an invention designed to speed improvement of sportsmen

cannot hear a coach's instructions when in water and lose time and rhythm by looking up at clocks, the device is invaluable.

Miley, 34, a former swimmer and triathlete, started out on the path to his creation by fitting a digital watch to the side of his swimming goggles, in the fashion of a mad inventor, but his involvement with the Garioch club, near Inverurie, gave him a craving for control of the device not as swimmer but as coach. After consulting Nick Norman, an engineer friend, the programmable device was born.

The simple inventions are often the best, and the unit attracted the attention of the Grampian Enterprise Trust, which gave technical support to Miley. The device is now protected by patent.

For Palmer, the pacemaker brings home the reality of pain. "I train alone and used to swim at my own pace in races," he said, "but, at this level [world class], I have to be able to go out in races with the best — the pacemaker is teaching me what that feels like."

Indeed, Turner, who met Miley when the two took their senior coach's examinations two years ago, points to the

psychological benefit apparent in the machine, as auto-suggestion comes into play. Turner, who has taken a six-month sabbatical from his job as a physical education teacher to tutor his charge, set Palmer, for example, eight 400-metre freestyle swims, going every 4min 45sec. Palmer clocked every one in 4min 05sec, each time within a 0.1sec of the pace that the machine had set. "It was unerring," Turner said.

In training in Atlanta, Palmer will be asked to swim 30 sequential sets of 100 metres, each one in 58sec, the time in which Johnny Weissmuller, in the 1920s, and Dawn Fraser, in the 1960s, held the world record. It is also the sort of pace that Kieren Perkins, of Australia, will set in defence of his 1,500 metres title. Palmer hopes to be alongside Perkins in that final.

Meanwhile, Miley, encouraged by the response of Nick Gillingham, who has also been using a prototype, has engaged a business adviser, John Deffenbaugh, to promote the product.

An agreement has been signed with the Finnish national team to test the device, but Miley said: "It would be nice to see the British team benefit first."



Palmer's pace is set by the emitter placed at the side of his head. Photograph: Michael Powell

Curling faces test of character

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

POLLY CURLING faces a test of character if she is to retain her women's title. Regarded as a certain winner, barring a fall, at the start of the season, it has been her frequent altercations with terra firma which has now put a question mark over her chances.

None of her skills has been serious enough to put her onto the sidelines for a lengthy spell, but trainer Richard Barber was forced to put her there himself on Easter Monday after another jarring thud two days earlier.

Two doctors who carried out the compulsory check after that fall could not find enough damage to sign her off, but

they told Barber she was unfit to ride. "I was left to carry the can and act as referee," Barber said yesterday.

An unsatisfactory situation was made worse when he saddled three winners, two of which would have been Curling's rides. Victories elsewhere for Alison Dare and Pip Jones means the champion is now only third in the championship.

Curling was left feeling blue, which is at present the colour of her body, the main problem being a bruised ribcage.

Due to ride at the Portman meeting today, when she had winning chances on the Bar-

ber-trained Ber With Baker and Bill Smith's Quannaas. Curling reluctantly decided yesterday to delay her comeback. However, although the champion is down, it would be unwise to count her out.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Worcester, 1.50 Muppet, 2.30 Mystic, 3.50 Arctic, 4.30 Sevens, 5.35 Counting Newmarket, 5.55 Sevens, 6.55 Counting Newmarket, 7.55 Sevens, 8.55 Counting Newmarket, 9.55 Sevens, 10.55 Counting Newmarket.

WARWICK

THUNDERER
1.50 Muppet, 2.30 Mystic, 3.50 Arctic, 4.30 Sevens, 5.35 Counting Newmarket, 5.55 Sevens, 6.55 Counting Newmarket, 7.55 Sevens, 8.55 Counting Newmarket, 9.55 Sevens, 10.55 Counting Newmarket.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F. LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

1.50 HATTON MAIDEN FILLES STAKES

(2-Y-O, £3,334.50) (5 runners)
1. (6) BETTYBOUGH R. Hannon 8-11
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

2.20 WARWICK SPRING HANDICAP

(3-Y-O, £3,392.50) (18 runners)
1. (2) AMBER FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

2.50 DUNSMORE CLAIMING STAKES

(Div 1, £2,538.1m) (14 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

3.20 WELLSBOURNE HANDICAP

(3-Y-O, £3,832.1m) (16 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

3.50 MARTON HANDICAP

(£5,540.1m) (14 runners) (17 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

4.30 OLD MILVERTON MAIDEN STAKES

(£4,078.50) (16 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

5.05 DUNSMORE CLAIMING STAKES

(Div 1, £2,538.1m) (14 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

5.35 KINETON HANDICAP

(£4,338.1m) (21 runners) (20 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER
2.00 Selatan, 2.35 Evangelica, 3.05 Act The Wag, 3.35 Abbey Street, 4.05 Hold Your Ranks, 4.40 James The First, 5.15 Three Farthings.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 EIRE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP

(£2,665.2m) (17 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

2.35 SAPPHIRE & DIAMOND NOVICES CHASE

(£3,250.3m) (11 runners) (16 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

3.05 PANTO PRINCE HANDICAP CHASE

(£4,834.2m) (13 runners) (13 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

3.35 NEWTON ABBOT RACECOURSE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£4,470.2m) (11 runners) (10 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

4.05 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,822.2m) (11 runners) (10 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

4.40 FLORIDA HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,420.2m) (11 runners) (10 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

5.15 AFTERTHOUGHT INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

(£1,509.2m) (16 runners) (16 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

5.15 AFTERTHOUGHT INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

(£1,509.2m) (16 runners) (16 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

5.15 AFTERTHOUGHT INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

(£1,509.2m) (16 runners) (16 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

5.15 AFTERTHOUGHT INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

(£1,509.2m) (16 runners) (16 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
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3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
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5.15 AFTERTHOUGHT INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

(£1,509.2m) (16 runners) (16 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

5.15 AFTERTHOUGHT INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

(£1,509.2m) (16 runners) (16 runners)
1. (1) AM FORT 15 (B.F.) P. Hannon 9-5
2. (1) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
3. (4) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
4. (5) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1
5. (2) LADY CAROLINE LANE 11-1

Yates handed leading role

SEAN YATES, who has spent most of his 15 years as a professional cyclist chasing down attacks for his team leaders, will be elevated to senior status in the 263-kilometre Centenary Classic from Paris to Roubaix tomorrow (Peter Bryan writes). In the past three years, Yates has turned in consistently high placings: eighth in 1993, fifth in 1994, and eleventh last year.

Yates, 35, has decided to retire later this year and is determined to produce a best-ever performance tomorrow when his Motorola squad will try to nurse him through to a winning position. The event warrants its sobriquet "Hell of the North" and is raced on secondary roads and farm tracks, broken throughout the event by 22 bone-shaking zones of cobbles left undisturbed by the French authorities to help to retain some of the original character of the race. The event, the third of 11 World Cup races this season, has drawn the top three finishers last year — Franco Ballerini (Italy), Andrei Tchmil (Ukraine) and Johan Museeuw (Belgium).

Haining leads off

ROWING: Peter Haining, the world lightweight champion, will lead off 440 competitors in the Scullers Head from Mortlake to Putney today. Haining, the winner in 1993 and 1994, will find his main opposition coming from Guy Pooley, the winner in 1992. Pooley, starting second, is a rival to Haining for the sculls selection in the Great Britain team for the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Niall O'Toole, who won the event last year, is not defending his title.

Cuthbert sails in

SAILING: Sally Cuthbert is on course for a record fourth youth world championship in the girls' two-handed dinghy class, after winning the Holt/RYA youth national championship for the fourth successive year. Cuthbert, 18, of Stansted, Essex, who sails with her twin sister, Jessie, was lying second until the eighth and final race at Warshay yesterday when they overhauled Gillian Hooton and Jennifer Heeley of Largs, to take the title.

Perfect score despite fire

RIFLE SHOOTING: The Great Britain rifle team competing in Trinidad yesterday found the range ablaze over to one side while they were shooting. However, the small forest fire did not interrupt the competitions. Larry Orpen-Smellie, a retired Parachute Regiment Lieutenant-Colonel, made a perfect score of 50 with every shot in the bullseye at 500 yards, while the fire burned near the 600-yard point. It was the only perfect score of the day.

Howey on her own

JUDO: Kate Howey will buck a trend today by competing in the British Open at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. The event will feature 538 participants from 14 countries, but Howey is the only member of Great Britain's national team who will be there. Howey felt that she needed to take part in an international competition before the European championships next month. Her team-mates are already preparing for that event in Japan.

Raphael steps forward

HOCKEY: Scotland captured the home countries universities men's championship at Swansea for the first time yesterday, with a helping hand from a 19-year-old Irishman. Mark Raphael, a student at Edinburgh, scored the winning goal in their 2-1 defeat of his native Northern Ireland to enable the Scots to go through their three-match programme with maximum points. The women's tournament was won by England for the second successive year.

Hampstead challenge

LACROSSE: Kenton are favourites to take their fourth successive flags title when they play Hampstead in the South of England Flags final at Motspur Park this afternoon. Kenton have beaten Hampstead twice this season in the league. For Hampstead, it is their first flag final since 1991, when they ended a run of four successive victories. They are led by Chris Bland, one of the best midfield players in the country.

2 for 1 RPO concert tickets

Buy one full price concert ticket and get another of equal value — FREE



The Times, in association with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, offers you a free ticket to one of the RPO's inaugural concerts at the Royal Albert Hall on either May 12 or May 21. Buy one ticket and you get another of equal value to the same concert FREE.

The concerts will be conducted by Orwin Arwel Hughes and Yuri Temirkanov and feature baritone Thomas Allen and cellist Lynn Harrell.

Simply complete the application form below, full details appear on Tuesday.

THE TIMES 2 FOR 1 RPO CONCERT TICKETS

Please send me (insert quantity in box) the following tickets:

May 12 £27 £21 £16 £10 £5

May 21 £27 £21 £16 £10 £5

plus one additional complimentary ticket of equivalent value for each full price ticket

Name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____ Day Tel _____

I enclose a cheque for £____ payable to: The Royal Albert Hall

Or debit my Access/Visa card no _____ Exp date _____

Name on card _____ Signature _____

Phone: 01753 611111 Fax: 01753 611111

Postcode: _____ Day Tel: _____

Postcode: _____ Day Tel: _____

SPORT

SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

FOOTBALL 47

ALDRIDGE PULLS
ON MANAGER'S
HAT AT TRANMERE

Champion fails to defend his Masters title beyond the halfway stage

Crenshaw suffers cruellest cut

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN AUGUSTA

SAM TORRANCE'S involvement in the sixtieth Masters ended just before lunch here yesterday when he added a much-improved 71 to his first round 80 for a 36-hole total of 151. Torrance was not alone on this score, seven over par and certain to miss the halfway cut. An hour later came the sad sight of Ben Crenshaw, the defending champion, walking up the 18th to the site of his emotional triumph last year.

Then he finished with a five and he did so again this year. But last year it was good enough to give him a one-stroke victory over Davis Love III, whereas this year all that remained was for him to head to the clubhouse and kick his heels for two days before he could perform the ceremonial role of putting the green jacket on the shoulders of the winner this year and congratulating him in front of millions of television viewers. Crenshaw's rounds were 77 and 74.

"Not to play your best golf here after winning is very, very disappointing," Crenshaw said. "I played some really good holes and some very poor ones. As champion you are expected to do all you can but the ball has got to run for you. I am going to be an innocent bystander for the next couple of days."

Torrance's first round was what did the damage that was ultimately to prevent him playing the last two rounds for the first time in his three appearances in this event. "After that I wanted to go into a corner, have a beer and sulk," Torrance said. "But my Dad told me to get out on the practice ground and I am glad I did."

Torrance said the wind was "wicked". It got up overnight to turn a course that Greg Norman and Phil Mickelson had flattened, with a 63 and 65 respectively on Thursday, a day when 32 of the 93 competing golfers broke par, into one that barred its teeth yesterday. The 12th proved a terror. Crenshaw had a six there after a gust of wind got up just as he hit his tee shot and blew it 30 yards left.

The wind made both the par fives on the homeward half much more difficult and even as early as lunchtime it became clear that there would be no rounds containing nine birdies, as Norman's had the previous day. Almost without exception the early finishers reeled off the course grateful to



Lyle tracks the progress of his tee shot at the 4th hole during his second round of 74 in the Masters at Augusta yesterday. Photograph: Stephen Munday/Allsport

SCORES FROM AUGUSTA

United States unless stated, par 72
Early second-round
141: C. Pavin 75 69
145: J. Furyk 75 70, B. Langer (Ger) 75 70,
T. Lehman 75 70
146: P. Couples 78 68, L. Mize 75 71
147: T. Watson 75 72
149: S. Snider 80 69, S. Lyle 75 74
150: N. Lancaster 76 74, T. Woods 75 75
151: S. Torrance (GB) 80 71, B. Crenshaw
77 74, S. Higashi (Japan) 76 75, E.
Dougherty 76 75, K. Triplett 76 75
152: J. Heron 76 76, K. Perry 75 77, T. Kite
75 77
153: W. Austin 79 74, D. Edwards 79 74, C.
Rocco (It) 79 75, B. Bryant 78 75
154: B. Mayfair 77 77
155: S. Elkington (Aus) 76 79, B.
Hamminger 76 79, G. Sherry (GB) 78 77
157: I. Baker-Finch (Aus) 78 79

158: C. Wollmann 79 79
160: G. Maruza 79 81, J. Courville 78 82,
C. Coady 82 78, M. McCumber 78 82
166: D. Ford 81 68
The leading 44 scores and ties plus
players within 10 shots of the leader
qualify for the final rounds
First-round
68: G. Norman (Aus) 68, P. Mickelson 67,
B. Tivy 68, S. Hoch 68, L. Janzen 69, D.
Gilford (GB), B. Faxon, N. Faldo (GB), S.
Simpson, V. Singh (Ind), 70: P. Adinger, S.
McCann, R. Floyd, D. Frost (SA), J.
Gallagher Jr, J. Nicklaus, J. Hiest 71: T.
Aron, J. Maggari, F. Nodda (It), M. Price
(Zim), S. Lowery, B. Gossion, B. Estes, M.
Calacavochia, J. Huston, F. Funk, J. Daly, C.
Strange, E. Els (SA), M. Ozaki (Japan), L.
Roberts 72: T. Tryba, H. Sutton, D. Waldorf

M. Brooks, D. Love III, C. Montgomerie
(GB), M. O'Meara, I. Woodsam (GB), J.
Leonard 73: S. Baldestone (Sot), G. Player
(SA), M. Campbell (NZ), A. Capps (Ger), C.
Saxler, D. Duval 74: D. A. Weir, J. J.
Stanton, A. Palmer, M. Roe (GB), F.
Stankovic, P. Goydos, P. Stewart, F.
Zoeller, H. Irwin 75: G. Brewer, B. Casser,
T. Kite, L. Mize, S. Lyle (GB), K. Perry, J.
Weston, T. Woods, B. Langer, G. Lyle
Lehman, C. Pavin, J. Furyk 76: K. Triplett, E.
Dougherty, N. Lancaster, J. Heron, B.
Hamminger, S. Elkington, S. Higashi (Japan),
77: B. Mayfair, B. Crenshaw, 78: S. Bryant,
M. McCumber, I. Baker-Finch, C. Rocco,
J. Courville, G. Sherry, F. Couples 79:
J. Heron 76 76, K. Perry 75 77, T. Kite
75 77
153: W. Austin 79 74, D. Edwards 79 74, C.
Rocco (It) 79 75, B. Bryant 78 75
154: B. Mayfair 77 77
155: S. Elkington (Aus) 76 79, B.
Hamminger 76 79, G. Sherry (GB) 78 77
157: I. Baker-Finch (Aus) 78 79

those distances in two strokes. One shot better off than Woods, but still in danger, was Sandy Lyle, who added a 74 to his 75 in the first round for a five-over par total of 149.

As the day wore on there was no lessening of admiration for Norman's 63. It was one of the great championship rounds, one that he considered to be almost as good as his 63 at Turnberry in the second round of the 1986 Open and his 64 at Royal St George's on the last day of the 1993 Open.

"I'll be able to reflect on this for years to come," Norman said. "Every time I come back here I'll think, 'Boy, you shot 63 here'. You remember when you shoot a 63. You don't forget the shots you played and the putts you made." Amid the admiration for Norman's phenomenal burst of six birdies in his last seven holes it might be forgotten how well he played at the start of his

round. "I don't think people realise quite how hard the first five holes are," he said. "When I got through them with some solid golf and some good putts I stood on the 6th tee and said: 'Phew. Now perhaps we can do something.'"

By playing so well, Norman created a problem for himself — living up to his own skills. There have been only four champions who have led from start to finish at this event and the last one was Ray Floyd in 1976. "You have to keep the momentum going somehow," Norman said in the glowing aftermath of his round. "You know you're not going to shoot three more 63s, so you try not to let it get away from you and get too excited about it."

Mickelson's and then Norman's rounds brought the opening day to a crescendo. Days like that are rare at major championships and all the more special for being so.

Sherry departs, page 43

Bishop will attempt to bring clubs and union together

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BILL BISHOP, president of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) is to play a direct role in negotiations between the union and its leading clubs. But, in a fresh twist to an increasingly tangled plot, the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) yesterday offered its services as a mediator between the warring factions. The RFU's full committee met in London yesterday after deadlock had been reached over the degree of control the union seeks to exercise over the newly professionalised clubs. England's leading 20 clubs want more independence to run their own affairs than their governing body is prepared to give and, on Thursday, announced their withdrawal from next season's RFU competitions.

The entry of Bishop into the fray will bring hope to both sides if it diverts attention from the two personalities who have tended to dominate the public perception of the disagreement: Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU executive committee who has led his union's negotiating panel, and Sir John Hall, chairman of Newcastle United Sporting Clubs. Bishop said yesterday: "It's time that I did enter the talks. I was kept away to protect the office of the president. I can add some experience and feel for the game."

Sources suggest that the RFU committee has realised the need for agreement if a split damaging to both sides is to be avoided. Accusations of intransigence have flown thick and fast, but the differences

Gloucester spice 42
Debt to Orkney 42

are not so great if the clubs can be granted some measure of graduated independence which will allow them to run their businesses successfully in the new era.

That the clubs are in deadly earnest is illustrated by their search for a sponsor who can deal on their behalf with television companies; their representatives have contacted both Vernon Pugh, chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union and also of the IRFB, and Louis Luyt, president of the South African Rugby Football Union, since IRFB regulations permit only governing bodies to negotiate TV rights.

An IRFB statement yesterday confirmed an approach to Pugh from the clubs but said that a meeting could be set up "only with the consent and in the presence of representatives of the RFU. If the IRFB is requested to act as a mediator or to assist in discussions relating to a dispute, it would be prepared to do so, but only with the consent of, and on terms acceptable to, that union. The IRFB can provide the services of its acting secretary, Bob Weighill [a former secretary to the RFU] or any of its officials."

Bristol yesterday confirmed that Garath Archer would be leaving them to join Newcastle next season, and launched a blistering attack on the England lock forward. David Tyler, the director of rugby, claimed that Archer had made himself unavailable for selection for today's crucial meeting with Leicester in the Courage Clubs Championship first division by failing to seek medical treatment for a knee injury incurred against Bath a fortnight ago, failing to train, and failing to turn up for contractual discussions with Alan Davies, the new coach, earlier this week.

TCCB clears Malcolm over criticism of tour

DEVON MALCOLM has escaped disciplinary action over his criticism of England's team management on the recent cricket tour of South Africa. Malcolm, the Derbyshire fast bowler, was cleared after an investigation by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB).

In a series of articles in the *Daily Express*, Malcolm claimed that he was verbally abused by Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, and also suggested that the criticism was racially motivated.

The TCCB statement said: "Malcolm has assured the board that in those articles he did not suggest or intend to suggest that the England manager or management had used language or exhibited behaviour towards him which was of a racist nature."

New season opens, page 41

Super League opens with scoring spree

Tries, tries and tries again. In the Super League, a try is scored on average every eight minutes. The first 18 matches in the new rugby league competition have brought 183 tries — unprecedented scoring, which is trying some spectators' patience and converting others.

Before last night's game between Warrington and Halifax, matches had averaged 58 points, compared with 48 points in the first 16 games of the century season. The introduction of Paris Saint-Germain exaggerates the points equation, but even subtracting the new side's 14 tries from the total try count, the figure of 169 still represents a 15 per cent increase in tries on the same stage last season.

The theory that tries equals entertainment equals more spectators is being born out by high-scoring yet competitive matches in many instances and a rise in crowds. It is the contrivance that the staunch traditional followers object to. That, and the remoulding, fancy packaging and new presentation of their sport.

What Sky Television, in its cover-

age, describes as "same game, different attitude" is half-true. In its short life, Super League has become almost a new sport, a cross between basketball, in terms of high scoring, and ice hockey, in terms of break-neck speed and the new interchange system, which allows six substitutions per side.

Fresh legs are quickening the game, while the now almost unlimited space at the play-the-ball — or play-touch-football, as it is in danger of becoming known — is an open invitation to attacking sides. With the weather still to warm up and pitches to become parched, the crumbling of defences has probably only just begun, unless improved fitness levels can bring about better defensive organisation.

St Helens, the Super League leaders, are the only one of the 12 teams to have conceded less than 20 points a game; at the bottom, Workington's defence is leaking an average of 52

points. If tries are so readily available, then the team that sorts out its defence would seem to stand the best chance of ultimate victory.

As fast and spectacular as much as the action is, an ideological debate is raging about whether it is actually rugby league. The muddled oafs are no more. Forwards no longer drive the ball up into the waiting embrace of an opposition forward. They are part of the seamless pattern, their distinction lost in the lust for speed. "Anyone even a bit slow is dead in this game," one player said.

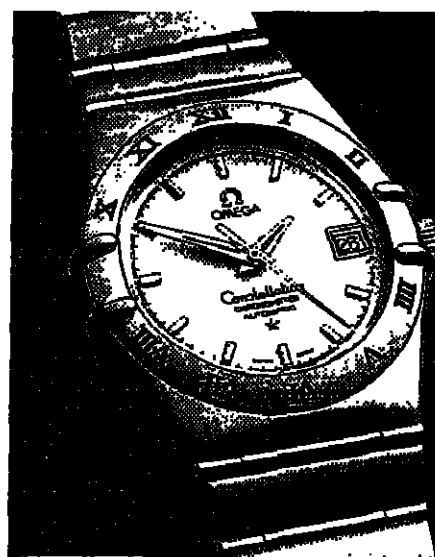
A comment this week by Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League chief executive, that players are getting better is not so much the case as they are going faster and, in the opinion of Garry Schofield, the most skilful player of his generation, are becoming less skilled.

Schofield, who now plays in the first

division for Huddersfield, says in *Super League Week*: "I think we [defences] ought to be no more than five metres back from the play-the-ball [the rule is ten metres], then we could find out where the players of skill are, because they would be the guys opening the defences."

"Australia have tried various systems and been through the big score syndrome. I can't accept that two sets of players who are so far apart can produce anything other than the kind of rugby league we are seeing at the moment. It's all loaded in favour of the big guys, with the element of skill down-graded."

When the day comes again to play Australia, Lindsay said that a finer Great Britain side would be able to demonstrate improved performance levels. The question then would be: would they know how to defend? Sydney City's 10-4 defeat of Canterbury last week was described in Australia as the match of the decade. A defensive stranglehold is unlikely to be a feature of round four of Super League.



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US force sails for Liberia as anarchy imperils rescue

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

AN AMERICAN naval task force was heading for Liberia yesterday as a complete breakdown of law and order complicated Pentagon efforts to evacuate hundreds of Americans and other foreigners from the capital, Monrovia.

The task force is sailing from the Adriatic and will take about ten days to reach the West African coast. It consists of the USS *Guam*, an amphibious assault ship, the USS *Conolly*, a destroyer, and three support ships with 1,800 US Marines on board. "We're planning for a contingency in a worst case," said an officer.

As anarchy swept Monrovia, American troops had to repel marauders who broke into the grounds of the US Ambassador's residence. Daylight helicopter flights were suspended after at least one was attacked by rocket-propelled grenades. The Pentagon dispatched additional helicopters from US bases.

International aid agencies and the United Nations were evacuating most of their foreign staff, but leaving behind local aid workers, as the country slid further into chaos. Ruth Marshall, a spokeswoman for the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said the situation was untenable after a series of raids on the UNHCR compound. "There is complete anarchy in Monrovia. There are bodies in the street. There is really wanton carnage," she said.

Another spokesman, Francis Kpatinde, said: "It feels bad to leave. But what can we do? We can't move around. We don't have anyone to speak to. All the leaders of the factions are in Monrovia, but they are just silent."

Aid agencies were unable even to estimate the numbers of killed and wounded because it was too dangerous to go on to the streets. Médecins Sans

Frontières and the International Committee of the Red Cross said that they were trying to withdraw.

The UNHCR was caring for about 120,000 refugees from Sierra Leone in Monrovia, along with another 1.2 million Liberians who had fled from fighting elsewhere in the country earlier in the conflict. A spokesman said that they last visited the refugees several days ago, when they were short of food, water, and medical care.

The refugee agency and Unicef, the UN children's fund, were leaving their 123 Liberian workers in Monrovia. A handful of foreign staff from the UN were expected to set up a crisis cell in the suburb of Riva View, which is controlled by the African Ecomog peacekeeping force.

One UN official in Geneva said that, apart from reports of looting by the peacekeepers, Ecomog troops had "not even



Families who fled Monrovia wait to board a US Air Force transport plane at Freetown international airport in Sierra Leone yesterday

moved their little finger" to protect aid workers.

There are about 223 non-Liberian staff in the country, including 92 military observers. Most of the UN's expatriates were due to board a

freighter in Monrovia heading for Abidjan in Senegal.

About 900 US servicemen are assisting the evacuation. More than 800 foreigners have been rescued since Tuesday, including about 150

Americans and a few British, but they were the most accessible. US troops now have to run a gauntlet of gunfire to rescue hundreds more from refugees around the city. Until now all evacuations

had taken place from the embassy, a State Department spokesman said. "Now we're beginning to go out to points where groups of Americans and foreigners are located." A substantial number of foreign-

ers were reportedly collected from a defunct Voice of America radio transmitter station, and up to 100 missionaries and their families were said to have taken refuge at a Christian radio station.

African peace team in Monrovia talks

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

FIERCE fighting erupted yesterday around a Monrovia barracks where a breakaway faction was holed up with hundreds of hostages as a West African diplomatic delegation arrived in the Liberian capital.

As the peace team sent by President Rawlings of Ghana met Charles Taylor, the dominant warlord in Monrovia, his chief aide hotly denied that the fighting had broken out because Mr Taylor was bent on establishing himself as Liberia's President.

Heavy artillery and mortars pounded the sprawling barracks complex where Roosevelt Johnson and his largely Krahn tribal followers were holding at least 400 Liberians and 40 Lebanese as human shields against Mr Taylor's men — mainly descendants of freed American slaves — who have formed an alliance with the commercially powerful

Mandingo tribe. Elsewhere in the city looting continued unchecked.

A spokesman at the US Embassy organising the evacuation of foreigners said: "We are receiving calls all the time from people who want to come to Mamba Point [a beachside suburb where many embassies are based] but are unable to get here."

He said that no US military personnel had been sent on rescue missions into the town, but that the embassy security officer and guards from Mr Taylor's faction were touring "safer areas" in search of trapped foreigners.

General Johnson was accused of murder several weeks ago. But many foreign diplomats believe that Mr Taylor used the arrest warrant as a smokescreen in an attempt to impose himself as Liberia's President and end a power-sharing arrangement.

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Self-made men of North vie for Valentino vote in ballot battle of Milan

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN MILAN

BENEATH the fairy-tale Gothic spires of Milan cathedral, a gleaming red 1955 Ferrari Monza is on display to advertise a new perfume. Nearby, in the discreet elegance of Via Monte Napoleone — Milan's equivalent of Bond Street — Gucci and Valentino vie for the attention of well-heeled shoppers.

This is one of the main battlegrounds of the election, now a week away. Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon,

ITALIAN ELECTIONS

former Prime Minister and local boy made good, is fighting for the key seat of Milan Central. The businessmen in

the city centre look much like Signor Berlusconi on his posters: suave, tanned, mobile telephone constantly to hand. His main opponent in Milan Central also comes from the area. But Umberto Bossi, the tanned, bespectacled leader of the separatist Northern League, is rough-hewn by comparison. Like Signor Berlusconi, he has risen from humble origins; unlike the tycoon, who was a salesman and cruise-ship singer, Signor Bossi still looks like the local authority official he once was. The Bossi campaign buses

seem out of place amid power-dressed Milanese. Wagner blares from tinny loudspeakers as scruffy young men lean out of bus windows waving the League flag — a red cross on a white background — and trumpet the Bossi dream of a separate state: "Enough of taxes, enough of Rome, long live the Republic of Padania." The battle of Milan Central is vital not only for Signor Berlusconi's chances of becoming Prime Minister again, but also for the future of Italy as a unitary state. The 1994 election, fought with new

rules that were supposed to give Italy a clearer result and more stable government, produced a narrow Centre-Right majority under Signor Berlusconi. But the coalition collapsed after eight months when Signor Bossi withdrew his 120 deputies. This time the League is going it alone. "We have had enough of electoral alliances," said Roberto Calderoli, its secretary-general, in the party's down-at-the-heel headquarters. He denies the League is "secessionist", arguing that the media have misinterpreted

a policy of "autonomy for the nation of the North within a confederation". But Signor Bossi proclaimed the new state of Padania a month ago, defining it as the North as far down as Umbria. He gave an audience of shopkeepers and blue-collar workers — the League's natural constituency — a thoughtful analysis of the North-South divide. But he still whips up anti-Southern sentiment by accusing "those people in Naples and Calabria" of siphoning off "your hard-earned taxes". He also

pointed out that Signor Berlusconi has promised to cut taxes to help the self-employed, but owns the giant supermarkets that are putting shopkeepers out of business. Opinion polls nonetheless suggest the League's message may have lost its appeal. It was transformed from a fringe protest movement into a national force by the collapse of the established parties in 1992, after the Milan magistrates' anti-corruption drive. Lombardy, Piedmont and the Veneto still have a per capita income twice that of

Sicily or Calabria, and are enjoying an export-led boom. Northern Italy is one of the richest regions in Europe. Northern industrialists resent the fact that, because of the South, Italy is in danger of slipping into Europe's "second division" and has little hope of joining the single currency from the outset. Signor Bossi's antics and crude language no longer endear him to the middle classes. But nobody is writing off the League. It is still likely to win between 30 and 40 seats.

Hong Kong told by China to stay clear of politics

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

PEKING yesterday reassured foreign passport holders wanting to stay in Hong Kong after the 1997 handover, but issued a warning that the colony must not become a centre of political activity.

Lu Ping, Director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, said Hong Kong people of Chinese parentage, including foreign passport holders, will be regarded as Chinese if they live in the city after 1997 — as long as they do not declare openly they have the right of abode in another country.

Those of non-Chinese parentage who have lived in Hong Kong for generations and have no other home — such as thousands of ethnic Indians — will be entitled to legal residence, Mr Lu said.

His remarks will reassure many in such positions, but are unlikely to stem the tide of those seeking foreign passports in case the situation here becomes unbearable after 1997. Only senior judges and a handful of high-ranking bureaucrats cannot hold foreign passports, Mr Lu said. But such officials have the assurance of a British passport at any time, which means they can truthfully deny holding one. Legislative Council members, too, cannot hold foreign passports, Mr Lu added.

Zhou Nan, Director of the Hong Kong branch of the

New China News Agency, Peking's de facto embassy here, delivered a degree of tough talking to the same audience — a conference on the colony's economic future. Indeed, Mr Zhou has taken a tough line with foreigners since his early days as an interrogator of American and British prisoners during the Korean War.

In the only speech without an accompanying English

6 Peking uses the concept of stability to justify many crackdowns

text, Mr Zhou observed that Hong Kong is an economic centre and not a political one, and most people here did not want it to become an arena for political struggle. "Any attempt to change Hong Kong's position as an economic centre by any means will only harm its stability and thus harm its prosperity... more and more people realise that Hong Kong's stability must be protected."

Peking uses the concept of

stability to justify many crack-downs, including Tiananmen in 1989.

Only one speaker said explicitly that Hong Kong people are worried about the future, including the survival of a free press. He was Hiroshi Zaizen, a director of Japan's Mitsubishi Corporation.

Despite his stated intention to listen to the views of others, Mr Lu's week in Hong Kong will be devoted to making clear Peking's implacable position. This is understood here by those in the crowd of protesters who mobbed his car when he arrived at the airport, and by the leaders of the main teachers' union whose invitation to meet Mr Lu was withdrawn this week because they refused to approve, in advance of the meeting, China's establishment of a new appointed Legislative Council.

Chris Patten, the Governor, has also been barred. Mr Zhou has pointedly invited his deputy, Anson Chan, to dinner with Mr Lu next week. This continues what Mr Patten calls his "lunchless and dinnerless" tradition whenever Mr Lu visits the colony.

London: Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, will meet his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, in The Hague on April 20 to discuss "matters of mutual interest, concentrating on Hong Kong", the Foreign Office said. (AFP)



The footprints of fleeing passengers left in the soot at the main terminal of Düsseldorf airport

Repair firm faces charges over German airport fire

FROM PETER BILD
IN BONN

GERMAN state prosecutors are to press charges of criminal negligence and manslaughter against a Dortmund maintenance company and its sub-contractor after the Düsseldorf airport fire in which 16 people, including a British soldier, died and more than 60 were injured.

Welding work has been established as the cause of sparks which travelled down ducting to ignite electrical cable on Thursday. The resulting ball of fire, which devastated nearly half of the terminal, which is one-third of a mile long, unleashed clouds of toxic black smoke which suffocated and poisoned its victims. The city's senior prosecutor, Rolf Chanteaux, said "all those concerned" with the maintenance work would be charged.

The British victim was Martin Smith, 22, who was serving with the 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards in Münster, north Germany. He was on his way to Britain on a week's leave to visit his girlfriend. The private from Tamworth, Staffordshire, joined the army in 1992. The airport authorities have come under heavy attack. Passengers described how the air-conditioning sucked up the poisonous fumes and blew them out into the arrival hall, creating a dense smog. The authorities are blamed for the failure to alert the city fire service for nearly 30 minutes. "By the time we arrived on the scene, there was nothing we could do," a fire officer said.

There was criticism, too, that passengers and staff were given no loudspeaker announcements or information. Defending prosecutors, airport chief Berndt Rietdorf claimed that all the smoke detectors worked and the airport fire service was on the scene within four minutes. But a taxi driver raised the alarm when he saw smoke billowing from the building. By the time the airport fire service went into action, burning roof tiles were falling into the flower shop below the electric wiring ignited by the welding work.

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مركز البصريات

'Imaginative' Tatyana Yeltsin tames hostile press as President's campaign gains ground

Papa's girl charms critics

WHEN President Yeltsin announced recently that he had appointed his youngest daughter to help to run his re-election campaign, critics in the Kremlin scoffed that the old man had allowed his heart to rule his head.

As Tatyana Yeltsin recalled in a recent interview, the first response by senior officials was to try to placate her by assigning menial tasks — organising youth projects and women's groups — to keep her out of the day-to-day running of the campaign.

"It was very difficult at the start, no one took me seriously," she told the weekly magazine *Ogonyok*, adding that the Russian leader's oldest and most trusted advisers still regarded her as a child. However, six weeks after the

MOSCOW FILE

by RICHARD BEESTON



mathematician and mother of two forced herself into the re-election team, she has earned the respect of many in the Kremlin for her quick mind and persuasive manner.

One Russian journalist who met her said that the President's daughter, who until recently was employed calculating the trajectory of spaceships, was learning her new job fast.

"It was obvious that she was not a professional," he

said. "She kept referring to Mr Yeltsin as papa, but it was also clear that she is far more imaginative than most of the advisers around him and is an asset to the campaign."

One of her first initiatives was to halt the regular formal meetings between the Kremlin leader and editors of Russia's leading publications, suggesting one-to-one sessions instead. The move has contributed to the extremely pro-Yeltsin coverage in the

press, which only a few months ago was frequently hostile to his leadership.

She has been credited with attracting an increasingly wide body of supporters to her father's campaign, thanks to her broad array of contacts and the fact that she has no real political enemies.

It is too early to say whether Mr Yeltsin's favourite daughter, who has inherited her mother's homely looks but her father's stubborn character, will use her sudden fame to launch her own political career. It is highly unusual for family members of Russian leaders to become involved in politics, particularly women. In Tatyana's case, both Aleksei Dyachenko, her husband, and Naina Yeltsin, her mother, want her home to look after Gleb, her six-month-old son.

However, many pundits have drawn the comparison between Tatyana Yeltsin and Claude Chirac, the daughter of Jacques Chirac, the French President, who masterminded his successful election campaign and is now his press secretary at the Elysée Palace.



Father figure: Boris Yeltsin exploits his image as a family man

Women give lift to hopes of politicians

THE voting habits of Russian women may have a decisive effect in the forthcoming presidential elections, but predicting their tastes in politicians has always been problematic.

To pinpoint which of the candidates appeals most to female voters, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the Moscow daily newspaper, recently asked women in the capital which leading politician they would refuse to share a lift with alone. Not surprisingly, the least popular choice was Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist firebrand who, in spite of a recent charm offensive to woo women voters, is still best remembered for beating a woman deputy in parliament last year. About 27 per cent of the respondents said they would not go near a lift if he was standing beside it.

President Yeltsin, who has been emphasising his role as a devoted husband and father, did better, with only 8 per cent of women refusing the "lift challenge" with him. Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist front-runner, was marginally more popular.

Those who fared best were Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, Yegor Gaidar, the former Russian Prime Minister, and Aleksandr Lebed, the burly former paratrooper.

Tales of the Muscovite mafia

AFTER years of being subjected to Western police serials, regarded as far too tame by most Russian viewers, Muscovites will soon be able to watch a series devoted to the brutal world of their own criminals.

The new police drama, called *In the Name of the Law*, will be a co-production between Nikita Mikhalkov, the Oscar-winning Russian director, and some of Hollywood's best producers and writers. The series, which follows the exploits of an honest detective fighting corruption, was proposed after documentary-style films on the mafia were considered too dangerous.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



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Mother suspected of Paris murders

FROM SUSAN BELL
IN PARIS

THE architect, Marguerite Zakrzewski, found hanged on Tuesday with her murdered husband and two sons in the wealthy Paris suburb of Sceaux, became the main suspect in the case yesterday as police received the first post-mortem examination results showing that she was the last to die.

Investigators believe that the father and elder son were killed on Sunday night while the mother and younger son did not die until the next day. Traces of drugs were found in the bodies. More definitive post-mortem examination results are expected over the weekend as police check reports that Mme Zakrzewski visited Sceaux on Monday.

The bodies of the family were discovered by a school friend of the couple's elder son Adam, 16, who visited the Zakrzewski house when neither brother turned up for classes after the Easter weekend. Like his father Piotr, 48, also an architect, Adam was discovered in his bed, virtually decapitated. Both had apparently been killed while they slept.

The body of the younger son Arthur, 12, was discovered close to his mother. He had been strangled and hanged. The family were all wearing pyjamas except for Mme Zakrzewski, who was elegantly dressed. Police said last night that her clothing was without bloodstains and that her body showed no sign of struggle.

No blood was found near the bodies or anywhere in the house, which police say had been cleaned after the murders.

Spaniards hunt for drug case fugitive

FROM DOMINIQUE SEARLE
IN GIBRALTAR

SPANISH Civil Guards were searching yesterday for a Spaniard who escaped from a boat chase for suspected drug smugglers which ended with a Spanish helicopter crashing into the sea, killing one of the crew.

The authorities in Cadiz said they had been unable to trace more than 1,300lb of cannabis which two men have allegedly confessed to unloading on a near beach near La Linea, the town bordering Gibraltar. The men — a Gibraltar and a Moroccan — were held after the chase.

Spain has accused Britain of failing to stop drug and tobacco trafficking from Gibraltar. Royal Gibraltar Police confirmed that the owner of a rigid inflatable boat who was arrested in the operation has been released on bail.

Queues continued to build up yesterday as people crossing to and from Gibraltar were subjected to stringent checks imposed by Cesar Braña, the regional Governor, after the incident. The Rock's trading community is concerned that if these controls are sustained — it was taking up to an hour just to walk into Gibraltar, and nearly four to drive out — tourists and shoppers will stop coming from Spain.

That would quickly set off an economic crisis for Gibraltar, which has already suffered from the reduced presence of the Ministry of Defence. In ten years the military's contribution to the local economy has fallen from about 60 per cent of the total to 6 per cent. Another 700 jobs are planned to go over the next two years.

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■ OPINION

Sad spectacle on sawdust can't we do something to revive our 200-year-old circus tradition?



■ THEATRE

The effects of war on humans, and a non-human, are explored in Martin Sherman's *Some Sunny Day*

THE TIMES ARTS



■ BASE NOTES

***Crazy for You*, the musical based on Gershwin's best tunes, goes on national tour**



■ BASE NOTES

Gloria Estefan will supply the anthem for this summer's Olympic Games in Atlanta

When I come to write my indispensable reference tome, *Bad Nights Out* in Norfolk, I shall certainly include last Tuesday's dismal débacle. It had seemed such a good wheeze at the time: take the kids to see a "traditional" circus before the forces of political correctness finally succeed in expurgating all performing animals from British life. But, like most of my good wheezes, it proved to be a horrible mistake.

We entered a field outside Norfolk. We handed the best part of £40 to Chipperfield's Circus. We watched four youths do a skipping-rope routine that could be managed by reasonably sprightly pensioners. This turned out to be the first act. We watched a man attempt to start a cardboard taxi until his trousers fell down. The programme claimed that he was a clown. If he was a clown, I am the Patriarch of Constantinople.

Where were the fire-eaters, knife-throwers, sword-swallowers, death-defying high-wire stuntmen,

mind-boggling contortionists? Perhaps it was their night off. True, three ghum characters produced a few elementary spins on a trapeze. But there was nothing worthy of an "ooh" or an "aah" here.

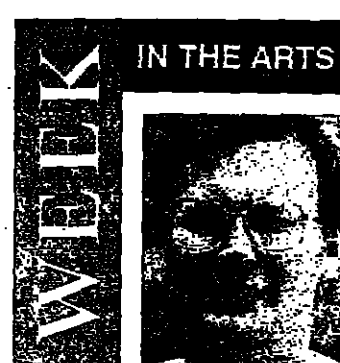
In any case, any audience reaction was drowned by a raucous stream of noise from a four-piece band. "At least it's live music," I yelled at my wife. Whereupon she shook her head and yelled back: "I'm not wearing a watch." Enigmatic woman, my wife.

What of the animals? A woman brought on a few horses and made them stand on their hind legs. A man brought on some oddly docile tigers. Guess what? They stood on their hind legs too. Somebody else brought on three sea lions and threw hoops at them. Sometimes the hoops looped over the sea lions' heads; sometimes they missed altogether. Amazing.

As a grand finale, three boys did wheelies on pushbikes. "I can do that," said my younger son. Not quite the gob-smacked reaction for which a father hopes after he has spent £40 treating his family to the circus. But a fair comment, I fear. This show had all the dangerous allure of a knitting pattern.

What has gone wrong with our circuses? You don't have to be very old to recall the era when Bertram Mills and Billy Smart toured the country with hundreds of performers: human and beastly. Now the British circus is reduced to this: a damp squib in a damp field outside Norwich. Smell of the greasypaint? Roar of the crowd? You must be joking.

Some claim that British circus effectively died in the early 1980s, when many local councils — encouraged by the RSPCA — banned animal acts from their



RICHARD MORRISON

land, alleging that the training was cruel. Clearly, the "breaking in" of any performing animal is not a job for soft hearts or liberals, and in some parts of the world the methods can be grotesque. In

Moscow a few years ago I asked a top Russian circus boss how he achieved the unique feat of getting chickens to dance to *Swan Lake*. His answer may have lost something in the translation, but it definitely involved saucers of boiling water.

British circuses, however, have never stooped to these horrific practices, and they claim to be victims of hypocrisy in a society that happily watches grueling equestrian events — or, for that matter, approves the politically expedient slaughter of 30,000 healthy cows each week. It is a fair point. But actually I don't think the decline of the British circus has much to do with the animal ban. The sad fact is that, as with practically every other physical recreation, the British taught the world to play the game but

have now been thoroughly outclassed by our former pupils.

Abroad, circus is considered chic, exciting, even intellectually stimulating. The Canadian-based Cirque du Soleil has redefined the form as vast acrobatic ballets. Russian circus clowns, who think nothing of interpolating Shakespearean skits into their acts, have achieved cult followings across the world. So has Archaios, the wild motorbike-and-chainsaw circus from France. In Monte Carlo, glamorous circus festivals are held under royal patronage.

In short, foreign companies are nurturing the circus equivalent of Disneyworld, while ours — those that still exist — appear to be stuck in Butlin's, circa 1955. Consequently, our best acrobat-entertainers are going abroad: that's the only way they can earn a living. Yes, I know that we have several small,

successful "physical theatre" groups. But what I am talking about are spectacular, populist entertainments, not art-house specialities. Are we really content that the country which produced Chaplin, Monty Python, Benny Hill and Peter Sellers cannot now compete with the French and the Canadians in the field of surreal visual humour? Good grief, I knew things were bad, but I didn't realise they were that bad.

So here is a populist challenge for the Arts Council. Let's resurrect the 200-year-old tradition of British circus, both as a vibrant art form and as a potentially huge money-spinner. The lottery is surely intended for tasks like this, and a little seed money spent on top-quality training and equipment would be quickly recouped. Let's put the "ooh" factor back into our cultural life. Remind the world that nobody performs better on sawdust than the British. And never again allow the Greatest Show on Earth to disintegrate into a bad night out in Norfolk.

What we need is bread for circuses

Only the alien is out of place

Brecht says somewhere that war is a weird physical field that turns everything in its ambit topsy-turvy. Courage, caution, honesty, trickery: whatever works effectively in peacetime becomes self-defeating in war. Decent people are transformed into monsters or behave like lunatics, and zit-high orange blobs from space are magicked into elegant young men who stalk about dressed like T.E. Lawrence.

All right, Brecht did not say anything about orange blobs. That is a detail gratuitously added by Martin Sherman, author of this quaint, diverting play. But the behaviour of the characters in *Some Sunny Day* supports Brechtian physics. They are human particles impelled by the prospect of disaster to demonstrate Heisenberg's uncertainty principle.

The physical field is Cairo in July 1942. Rommel is expected to break through British lines at any moment. Our embassy is burning documents, which is why bits of burnt marked "top secret" keep landing on people's heads. Jews are hunting visas that will get them into Palestine. Rumours abound, branding just about everyone in Roger Mitchell's fine cast as a Nazi spy.

None of them is that. But they are all acting as if their body temperatures have jumped to 104. Sara Kestelman, who pretends to be a Russian grand-duchess but is probably a Polish Jew on the run, reacts to a wasp as if it

were a doodlebug. Cheryl Campbell also spends a lot of time screaming and dashing feverishly about William Dudley's shabby-grand Islamic interior, only to recollect herself, and explain in vicarage-lawn tones that she is having a "mad scene". But then she has good reason for desperation, for her diplomat husband is besotted with a belly-dancer.

Emily, as Campbell's character is called, ends up sticking pins into a model of the dancer, while Horatio,

her husband, ends up ending Emily. He is played by a sweaty, mottled Corin Redgrave with a blend of subtle authority and self-satisfying humour I had not realised was in his range. In peacetime, Horatio is, as he primly says, "a novelist of at least minor importance". Wartime has turned him into a murderous monomaniac, comically unable to see that the wildest excesses of paranoia and greed are even mildly abnormal.

The play's message is that there is more in heaven and earth than is dreamt of in Horatian philosophy. English emotion turns out to be violent. And earthly emotion in general would probably seem remarkable to any visiting Martian. This is not mere rhetoric, either. Perhaps I am giving away secrets Sherman would prefer me to suppress, but here goes. There is a space intruder in *Some Sunny Day*, and he is indeed pleasantly astonished by human feeling.

Rupert Everett's Robin may seem to be a chiselled, laid-



"Human [and one inhuman] particles impelled by the prospect of disaster to demonstrate Heisenberg's uncertainty principle": Sara Kestelman, Rupert Everett and Corin Redgrave in a scene from Martin Sherman's *Some Sunny Day*

back Antipodean journalist, but he actually belongs to a species that can read minds, twist metal, and do other things which explain why Uri Geller gets "special thanks" in the programme. He is also sufficiently moved by hearing Mozart and having an affair with the genial young soldier played by David Bark-Jones to recognise that our race has its inner strengths too. It is a good performance, but a questionable idea on Sherman's part.

Is it wise to give a play so eloquent about human unpredictability a twist that lifts it out of the realm of the human? Does not sci-fi fantasy, especially fantasy that turns cutesy at the end, compromise what the play has to say about reality? The play left me in an accepting, upbeat mood, but I did wonder. I really did.

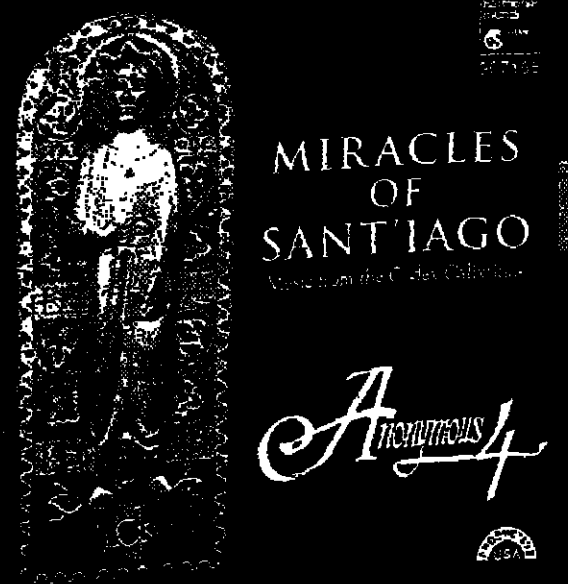
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MUSICALS

Back in his *Salad Days*, Julian Slade recalls the first performance of his hit show



RISING STAR

At the age of 14, Glasgow-born Iain Robertson finds that he is Britain's newest film star

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE

From Philip Schofield to Sibelius: see our new guide to top shows in Weekend, pages 12 and 13



ON MONDAY

Terry Gilliam talks about the making of *Twelve Monkeys*, and working with one Bruce Willis

Jeremy Kingston talks to Julian Slade about 40 years of *Salad Days*

Evergreen returns

Twenty years ago, *Salad Days*, the musical with the magic piano that makes people dance, was revived in the West End to celebrate the twentieth (in fact, twenty-second) anniversary of its first appearance there. Next week at the Vaudeville the fortieth anniversary (ie, the forty-second) is likewise commemorated, and perhaps some far-planning impresario is already thinking ahead to the year 2016.

Julian Slade, co-author with Dorothy Reynolds of the book and lyrics, and sole composer of the music, will then be in his mid-eighties. By that time he may be unable to move around his Chelsea basement flat because the scores of ornaments and mementoes, already populating every level surface, will have invaded all corners of the carpet.

There is even a piano on Slade's piano, but it is a miniature reproduction of the one in the 1954 show, which in its day was the longest running musical in the world, outlasting New York's *Okla-homa!* and London's *Chu-Chin-Chow* and *The Boy Friend*, the other home-grown, tune-packed musical of the period.

The story behind the show also has more than a touch of theatrical magic: a production planned to last three weeks at

the Bristol Old Vic transfers to London and runs for six years. "I was their resident composer," Slade explains, "writing incidental music for the productions, and I had collaborated with Dorothy, who was a member of the company, on two Christmas shows, which had been pretty successful. So Denis Carey, who ran the Bristol Old Vic in those days, asked us to write a summer revue, and the first thing I wrote was *Cleopatra*."

"But after I'd written the number, Denis changed his mind. He thought it would be better to have a musical play, particularly as we now had a title. It was suggested to us by the barmaid at the theatre. The company had done *Antony and Cleopatra* as part of the spring season, and she had heard *Cleopatra* say, 'My salad days, when I was green in judgment'. When she told us she thought it would make a good title, we all said, 'Olive, you're a genius! Now we've just got to think what it's going to be about.'"

What he and Dorothy Reynolds created was a story of two people, just out of university, who are not sure what to do next. "We wanted to write a fun show for the existing company. But we were very conscious that there were a lot of young people around — and I was only 23 — who were

being pressurised by their families, and I'm sure that's where the first ideas came from. The idea of Timothy being pressurised to find himself something to do and Jane being pressurised to make a good marriage. They decide to solve this for her by marrying each other, because they've been bosom pals at university, and find a job which is nothing to do with their parents. Then in walks the tramp with the piano. He offers them £7 a week to look after it for a month. And the piano turns out to make everybody dance."

The original cast were virtually unknown outside their local audience, but Ned Sherrin's production offers two stars, Kit and the Widow. Kit Hesketh-Devereaux plays all Timothy's uncles, including Uncle Zed, who arrives on a flying saucer, and the man in

the dress-shop. "We've turned him into another uncle, so that's a slight change in the plot." The Widow, otherwise Richard Sisson, plays the non-speaking part of Troppo, the clown who guards the piano. Does he get the chance to play? "Oh, yes. That's the great difference in this production: the piano works. In the original the keyboard was a dummy and it was all mimed in the pit. And by some amazing chance, not only Richard but David Morton, who is the tramp, and Simon Connolly, who's Timothy, can also play the piano, and they do."

And suddenly everyone starts dancing. "Look at me! Oh, look at me!" Sometimes a magic piano is not needed if a tune is catchy enough.

● *Salad Days* opens on Thursday at the Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, London WC2 (0171-836 9987)



Julian Slade on *Salad Days*: "We were very conscious that there were a lot of young people around — and I was only 23 — who were being pressurised by their families, and I'm sure that's where the first ideas came from"

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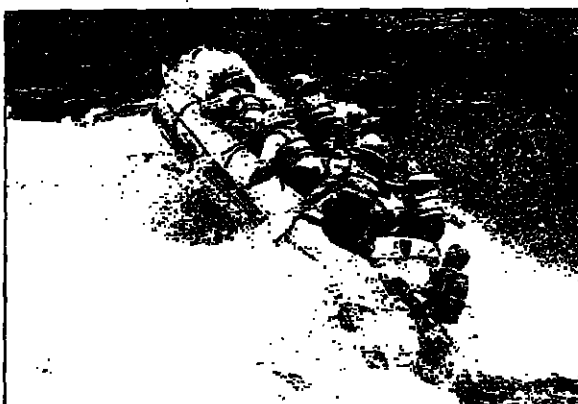
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SEE THE TIMES ON MONDAY FOR FULL DETAILS

The Tory party needs a stronger, more conservative manifesto to allay anxieties and rally support, says John Redwood

Robert Peel's *Tamworth Manifesto* rallied Conservatives. It gave them a programme for reform. It released the energies of British manufacturing for a generation. It defended what was best in the previous decades.

The Conservatives' manifesto for this most recent by-election offered no such vision. It was rejected by the voters. It leaves the party needing a new impetus to carry it to victory in the general election.

There is a temptation for both politicians and journalists to misinterpret by-elections. Opposition parties, when they win, claim it proves they will win the country. Governing parties, defending and losing, say these results are of no significance, merely a protest vote.

The truth is somewhere between the two. The Staffordshire South East by-election does not prove Labour is bound to win. Nor should it be brushed too readily aside by the Government. This is no longer mid-term. People's worries should be taken seriously. The seats lost in by-elections in the last Parliament did not prove difficult to win back in the general election, but that general election confirmed a loss of support in many marginal seats: 1992 brought the majority down with a bump.

It is time for some soul searching by the Conservatives. What does the party have to do to re-establish its winning ways? How can it set out a ringing declaration,

How to win back Tamworth

like Peel's at Tamworth? Can it fashion a policy to the temper and needs of the age?

Election results that at home and abroad politicians are not measuring up to the magnitude of the problems. The economy is recovering from the early 1990s slump, but so far it has proved a voteless recovery. People still distrust the state of trade, fearing that their jobs may be the next to go in some great corporate restructuring. They still find selling their houses a difficult, painful business.

They sense the whirlwind of change that global trade and new technology are unleashing but feel their leaders have let them down, not explaining it enough or helping them enough.

It was such a time of change that fathered the Tamworth declaration. New manufacturers felt threatened by tariffs and taxes. They welcomed Peel's onslaught on these impediments to prosperity. Today, the Government should explain why we welcome the new technology. It should restate the case for free trade and for taking a global view of our future.

The English language and our enthusiasm for computers and communications equip us well for this new world. Rules

and regulations should be cut back, opportunities grasped. A crusade to raise educational standards is needed. It requires tough decisions on styles and standards of teaching. These will be so much the easier for explaining that there is a purpose, that our children have something to look forward to. By thinking globally and excelling at English and computing we can capture the jobs and incomes we need. If we want and expect one of the highest living standards in the world, we must work effectively and supply the goods and services the new age expects. The Government should explain how we can do that.

People feel let down by the tax increases of recent years. Conservatives have to show that this year's reductions are the start of a programme to lower the burden on the majority. Tax cutting is a moral crusade. It leaves people with more freedom to choose. A prosperous economy trading with the world is the way to cut welfare and taxes together; as people gain jobs they shed income support.

People are worried that this Government is destroying cherished institutions. In particular they see it as no friend of the

National Health Service. At a time of considerable uncertainty about jobs and family incomes, people need even more reassurance that if they were to fall ill they would be looked after. It is no good saying that there have been more operations and more treatments, if what people see is the closure of their local hospital and worries about the availability of beds at the district hospital. We would all find it reassuring if beds and hospitals stayed open unless there was general agreement in the local community that the hospital had outlived its working life.

A Conservative Government, at a time of change, has to tell people that some changes are necessary, irresistible, even for the better. It should try to prevent any other change, to leave people with some stability in their lives.

Many voters found the closure of Bart's Hospital, and the rumours of threats to Admiralty Arch and Greenwich, unacceptable. Why need these things change when so much else has to? They find it odd that, at a time of all too many families breaking down, the Government should choose to introduce proposals which

liberalise divorce, while no steps are taken to restore the married man's tax allowance. Wouldn't that reassure, by showing that Conservatives still think two parents have a role together in bringing up young children?

The Government needs to define some lines which it is prepared to defend. Which of our inherited and cherished institutions is the Government committed to supporting? We need to know, so that we can rally behind a sense of belonging to a community with a past and a future.

Above all we need to know how the Government proposes to build a Europe of nation states out of the Lego of the Community's institutions. Many in the nation agree that this is what we want. We want trade and friendship, not common government.

Many have been horrified to realise just how much power has already ebbed away from us. They were surprised that we needed permission to require seat belts in coaches for schoolchildren. Many have been horrified that the EU can ban our beef for sale anywhere in the world although many customers and the Government here think it safe. Practically all

resent the damage done to our fishing industry by the common fisheries policy.

The Government needs to show our European partners that we keep our word. We want to influence Europe for the better. We have ideas that could lower the dole queues and get business moving again. That is more important to most people in Europe than the next steps towards a centralised state. We need to show that Europe, as well as Britain, will prosper only if it opens windows on the world. We need to trade with America and to swap technology with Asia. We should do more to help the new democracies to the east of our continent to prosper by pulling down the barriers to fair exchange. We need to show that there is a better way than the Franco-German big government scheme, which is destroying jobs and worrying many people.

When Denis Healey visited Tamworth, he reported that it was "a fine pleasant trading town, eminent for good ale and good company, of the middling sort". Such a Tamworth still speaks for a Britain that can prosper gently by thinking globally. Tamworth can be won back by the Conservatives at the general election. To do so will require a stronger manifesto than was served up there in the last few weeks. It will require a manifesto which touches the uncertainties and worries of electors about their own futures and the future of our nation.

Swan of Avon, son of Rome

Margarita Stocker defends her claim that Shakespeare was a secret Catholic

Have you ever wondered why, from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon, to sports centres in seaside towns, the country is strewn with more productions of *Macbeth* than even the most fervent Bardolator could possibly want?

No doubt some future pundit will marvel at this phenomenon and conclude that in the Nineties we flocked to the Scottish play and to *Braveheart* because we had fallen in love with Scotland. Alas, the reason is more prosaic: the Department for Education has decreed that every schoolchild in the land must study *Macbeth*, and this captive audience is the answer to any cash-strapped theatre's prayer. We are being force-fed *Macbeth* — with or without madwomen urinating onstage — simply because of the commercial dictates of historical circumstance.

To mention this rudely realistic fact may offend those who jealously guard the Bard's reputation as a universal genius, untrammelled by time and place. Yet, albeit tremendously gifted, he also was a man of his time: an ambitious, balding, bisexual playwright from a provincial town in Reformation England.

Consequently, when it was reported on Tuesday that I had found in *Love's Labour's Lost* new evidence that he was secretly a Roman Catholic, another Shakespeare scholar dismissed my article as "rubbish" — because the play "still works on stage", and if Shakespeare's intentions are a mystery we should leave it that way. The fact is that scholars have long suspected that there is more to this seemingly light romantic comedy than meets the untrained eye. Hitherto, we have not even been sure how many apostrophes to put in the title. Now, perhaps, we can do better than John Major, who fluffed a jibe at the opposition benches when he referred to some play called "Love Labour Lost".

Like the actor who, touring in *Macbeth*, furiously told a noisy audience of schoolchildren to "shut the f--- up", Shakespeare was also at the mercy of historical circumstance.

Thirty years before Shakespeare's birth, England was officially declared Protestant, and 60 years after his death the Government was still executing Catholic subversives. In Elizabethan England, the sizeable minority of recusants who held to the Old Faith risked the threat of prosecution, financial and corporal punishment, and — since Catholics were automatically suspected of treason — even death. Since religion was the crucial issue of the time, whether one attended evensong on a Sunday was a matter for beady-eyed local surveillance. And such evidence

as we have suggests that the local authorities were very unhappy about the Shakespeares.

We know that William's mother, Mary Arden, was a Catholic, and despite strenuous attempts to conceal his religion, her husband was nevertheless accused of recusancy — accurately, since he left to posterity a written confession of faith inspired by Jesuit teachings.

The playwright's marriage to Anne Hathaway may have involved a Catholic ceremony, and it was said that he "died a Papist": a statement often dismissed because it was made after the Restoration. But Shakespeare's younger daughter did not die until 1662, so family and local knowledge were hardly remote from the facts. His elder daughter was herself prosecuted for recusancy in 1606.

A young man determined to make a successful career as a playwright-actor-manager was compelled, if a Catholic, to conceal his faith. He was merely joining the ranks of other crypto-Catholics, such as the musician William Byrd, whose livelihood depended upon aristocratic patronage and a royal court in which virulent Protestant politicians so often called the tune. Moreover, the commercial theatre in London pandered to a crowd-pleasing Protestant jingoism which Shakespeare rarely bothered to satisfy — unlike his rival Thomas Dekker, who made a career out of it.

Indeed, several of Shakespeare's plays suggest a basic emotional commitment to Catholicism. The Ghost in *Hamlet*, for instance, presumes a Catholic belief in purgatory. Even in a play of unabashed Tudor propaganda, *Henry VIII* (mostly written, in fact, by John Fletcher), the most sympathetic characters are Cardinal Wolsey and the Catholic queen Mary whom Henry had divorced.

Love's Labour's Lost has been an enigma for 400 years because it is a cryptic protest against the persecution of Catholics. Clever enough to evade censorship and prosecution, the play is nevertheless packed with references to religious controversy and political figures that are instantly recognisable to a contemporary audience. And if we too have at last got the message, then Shakespeare has revealed to us what was probably the single most significant fact in his life.

The next time you watch an actor exploring the personal angst of *Macbeth*, remember that that play is shot through with references to the Catholic Gunpowder Plot. Never mind *The Scottish Play* — we should call it *The Bonfire Night Play*.

Dr Stocker is a fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford.

Shakespeare reveals to us the most significant fact in his life

But what will Labour do?

In the first of six articles, Anatole Kaletsky begins the most detailed scrutiny of Opposition policy so far

Usually it comes between the aubergine caviar and the salmon en papillote, though sometimes it can be staved off until the moment of decision between coffee and camomile tea. Sooner or later, however, the dreaded question has to be faced by anyone who claims to know about British politics these days: "Yes, but what will they do?"

The dinner-party consensus is no longer interested in whether Labour will win. Everyone knows that John Major could pull off a surprise victory, since nothing in politics can be ruled out. But beyond that there is little of interest to say about who will be the next Prime Minister. The conversation thus quickly turns from "who" to "what".

"What will Blair do, then? Will he raise taxes? Will he really take

By the time I went to see Mr Blair and his colleagues before Easter, I could recite a dozen blueprints for restoring the "industrial base", the "infrastructure base", the "skill base", the "science base" and even the "academic-research base" (the last three all in a single paragraph of Mr Mandelson's book).

Contemplating this mountain of verbiage — which Labour is desperately trying to computerise to allow instant responses to Tory disinformation campaigns — I realised that a lack of policies was the last thing Labour could be accused of. Indeed, I doubt if so many detailed plans have ever been produced before an election by any opposition party — or governing party for that matter. (It is odd how rarely people ask what on earth John Major would do with five more years in power.) Why, then, the near-universal belief that Labour has nothing definite to offer beyond Mr Blair's grin? There are at least three reasons, apart from natural reluctance to read Labour's broken-backed prose.

Firstly, Mr Blair, for all his speeches and policy statements, has remained evasive on the key economic issues — above all the questions of tax and monetary policy which obsess both the media and the middle class. This obscurity has been deliberate. It is an article of faith in the Blair camp that the plans for higher taxes announced just before the last election were largely responsible for Labour's defeat. From this premise Labour has concluded that the way to avoid another debacle is not to reveal their tax until the last possible moment. This is an odd idea, if you think about it, since that was exactly what John Smith did in 1992. But more of that on Monday.

Labour also has a more positive reason for dodging economic commitments. Rather than offer-



All smiles in the Shadow Cabinet — but would Tony Blair be safe from a palace coup?

ing clear alternatives on tax, inflation and economic growth, Labour's strategy is merely to attack the Tory record and so neutralise the traditional Tory lead on these issues. Labour can then concentrate on battlefields like education, health, welfare and the quality of life, where Mr Blair's brand of ethical "socialism" can rout the mercenary individualism of the Tories.

Opinion polls confirm Labour's view that education, health and welfare now matter more to voters than economics. And in all these areas — which I will examine next week — Labour is far ahead. But keeping attention focused on social issues may become more difficult as the election approaches. This is Labour's second problem in coming across as a party that knows what to do with power.

Mr Blair believes, quite rightly, that governments can often get things done without spending public money. Instead of raising new taxes or changing the monetary framework, a government can change priorities, revise legislation, reallocate public spending or simply try to change the climate of opinion. Mr Blair also believes, again with justice, that successful reforms in education and welfare could contribute greatly to prosperity and long-term economic growth. Yet most people persist in thinking that economic policy is critical, not only in winning elections, but also in running governments. As long as Labour's economic policies remain obscure, therefore, attention will constantly shift back

from his chosen social battlefield to the economy. And the longer Mr Blair tries to avoid revealing his economic commitments, the more suspect his entire programme will become — and the greater the risk that a wavering middle class will succumb to the Tory propaganda machine.

This leads to Labour's third, and most troubling, credibility problem. Are Mr Blair's promises any guide to what Labour would do in power? Again and again in my conversations with businessmen and middle-class voters, I heard the phrase "remember the GLC". Many voters still seem to fear a post-election palace coup, modelled on what happened in 1983 when the "loony Left", led by Ken Livingstone, ousted the moderate Labour leadership within 24 hours of Labour winning control of the Greater London Council.

The Blair camp is well aware of this lack of trust. Indeed, they say openly that their biggest electoral challenge is to persuade the voters that the likeable Mr Blair is the authentic face of new Labour. To borrow a phrase from the world of computers, Labour must prove it is now a party where "what you see is what you get". But this critical task, too, is made more difficult by Mr Blair's evasiveness on economics. As we shall see on Monday, the outlines of an unthreatening and plausible strategy can be discerned in Labour's economic pronouncements. Yet Mr Blair refuses to put the middle class and the

business community at ease by spelling out his full plans.

The same turns out to be true on education, health, welfare, industry or local government. The broad plans are clear enough, but when one gets close enough to seek the critical details, the policies begin to shimmer and vanish like a mirage.

If he could allay suspicions once and for all on future levels of taxes, the minimum wage and a few other critical variables, Labour would become virtually invulnerable to the only weapon the Tories seem to possess — the question of trust. But if Mr Blair allows middle-class suspicions to fester, he may find it hard to stop defections back to the Tory fold as the election draws near.

Mr Blair must perceive the political merit of allaying suspicions well before the election. To win trust today is much easier than to wait for the feverish atmosphere of an election. Why, then, doesn't he announce the critical details that could make his policies stand up — whether on the top rate of tax, minimum wages or the method for weeding out incompetent teachers?

Is it because revealing the full Labour agenda would be political suicide, as the Tories claim? Is it because he must hide his true intentions for fear of provoking the class-warriors of old Labour? Or is it because he really does not know what he wants to do with power?

These are among the questions on which I hope to shed some light in the next week.

Simon Jenkins is away.

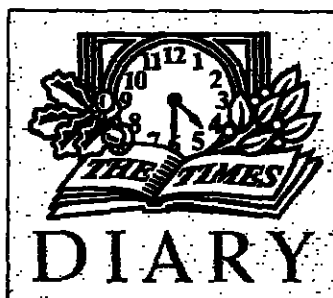
Reign fall?

THE SEPARATION of Princess Alexandra's daughter Marina Mowatt and her far from distinguished photographer husband Paul comes just days before a disastrous poll for the Royal Family. On Monday, a television documentary will show that republicans have increased in number by at least 300 per cent over the past decade.

For its programme *The Republic of Britain*, World in Action's MORI poll shows that at least 25

per cent of Her Majesty's subjects want a republic. Foremost among them are many Labour supporters, and Tony Blair will be less than enchanted by the views of Jon Norton, the partner of his Northern Ireland spokeswoman Mo Mowlam. He suggests on the programme that the Royal Family's time is past.

Canvassed on the most suitable member of the Royal Family to take over the reins from the Queen, many more individuals opted for



the Princess Royal than for the lacklustre Prince of Wales. And Betty Boothroyd was the most popular choice as a potential president of a British republic.

The republican agenda, meanwhile, appears to be penetrating our most sacred institutions. I understand that a bunch of royal lookalikes is hoping to stage its show, *The Fairytale Royal Wedding*, at Lord's cricket ground. There is talk of a topless Diana, but the show's organisers insist that the actors will remain clothed.

Auld enemy

SCOTTISH Nationalists are crowing over a rare victory. Michael Forsyth, the feisty Scottish Secretary, has withdrawn from next week's planned commemoration of

the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden. Culloden was where the Duke of Cumberland quashed the forces of Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite rebels.

The Scottish Office is saying that Forsyth must attend a Cabinet meeting in London on Tuesday. A senior civil servant will take his place. The Scottish Nationalists say "pah!"

The National Trust for Scotland had already warned of the over-emotional types who are dogging the anniversary. Nationalist hot-heads recently sprayed the commemorative Cumberland Stone with the words "murderers" and "British genocide". The SNP, who accused Forsyth of wanting to use the commemoration as a photo opportunity, will be at Drumossie Muir, three miles from Inverness, in force. They claim that their motives are in some strange way untainted by political considerations.

High price...

AFTER the Tories' latest by-election defeat in Staffordshire South East, some senior Conservatives are suggesting that their party should not even bother contesting by-elections in future. While Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman,

seemed gripped by a strange gallows humour yesterday, and the Prime Minister was said to be in good spirits, they must still face the fact that each by-election costs the party about £100,000 and results in nothing but humiliation.

Harold Wilson provides the inspiration here. He was the first modern Prime Minister not to travel to constituencies during by-elections. After some initial flak, his decision became a firmly established precedent. Thanks to Wilson, John Major does not have to campaign in by-elections. Why not



"I'm afraid our bloody-nose department has been closed"

extend the principle so that the party in power does not have to waste precious resources?

Summit talks

A HEAVYWEIGHT logistical problem exists in the Yorkshire Dales: how to elevate Lord Healey to the summit of one of the region's highest peaks. The ramblers and conservationist group Friends of DalesRail want their president to unveil a plaque atop the 2,731ft Pen-y-ghent.

The friends have ruled out portly Healey ascending under his own steam. "To be honest, I've been ducking sending the invitation to Lord Healey," says the secretary, Frank Reynolds. "How will we get him to the top? A helicopter?" Healey is keeping his head down: "I know nothing about it," he says.

Spaced out

EVEN THOUGH he is life-president and a former chairman of Watford Football Club, Elton John, the folkily-challenged singer, has been stopped from parking his Bentley in the directors' car park. At the last match, car and chauffeur were dispatched to the lesser guest car park further from the



Angry Elton

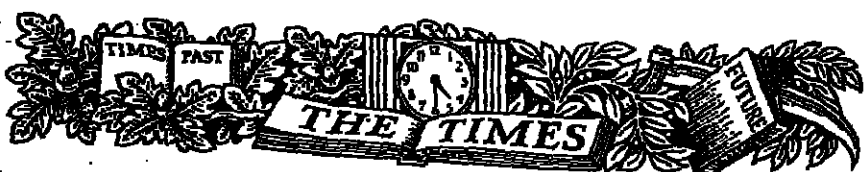
stadium. So appalled, apparently, was our Elton that he left before half time, in a huff. The club secretary, Jock Alexander, says there was no room.

● He was laid to rest in Highgate Cemetery in 1983, but Karl Marx, the father of Communism, has been brought back to life. In the last bulletin of the Association of British Science Writers, his name appeared on a blacklist of members who failed to pay the correct subscription fee.

P.H.S.



Royal lookalikes play up the monarchy.



BY-ELECTION BLUES

They woke up in the morning, stared defeat in the face

"We still have a lot of work to do," was the understatement of the day from John Major, contemplating his party's dreadful defeat in the Staffordshire South East by-election. Less insightful was the end of his sentence: "to get our message across". It is a cliché of Tory party conferences that electoral unpopularity is blamed on poor presentation. But politics is about more than public relations. Political success demands leadership, vision and competence, and this administration has been marked by a lack of all three.

Again the Tories were left wrong-footed by the scale of Labour's victory on Thursday night. At the start of the campaign, there were mutterings that this might be the first seat since Richmond in 1989 that the Conservatives would hold. Such a success would mark the beginnings of an electoral recovery. As the weeks wore on, the Tories became more realistic: a Labour majority of under 5,000 would be presented as a turning point. But the actual majority of 13,762 on a 22 per cent swing surpassed their worst fears.

They could not even realistically claim (though they tried) that Tories had just stayed at home. In fact the turnout, at 60 per cent, was relatively high for a by-election. What should worry the Conservatives is that so many of their supporters actually voted for Labour. A victory on this scale for the main Opposition party is unprecedented at this point in the electoral cycle.

Time is running out and so is the Conservative majority. Each month that passes without a turn-up in the polls makes the recovery that would be needed to win the next election steeper still. And the danger increases that Mr Major might be forced into an earlier election: the gap facing him in the polls could be gaping. He must soon realise that his tactic of twinning an economic recovery with scare stories about Labour is not enough. A return of the "feel-good" factor may be a necessary condition of a Tory recovery, but it is by no means sufficient. And attacks on Labour's competence have little force unless the Government is demonstrably more competent than its rivals.

It is sometimes said by Tory strategists that the party is seen as "cruel but efficient" while Labour is "compassionate but incompetent". Yet such has been this Government's record of mismanagement that it risks being labelled as "cruel and incompetent". Faced with a choice between a Labour administration that might be incompetent and a Tory one that has proved itself so, voters might well decide to risk the former.

The Conservative Party may argue all it likes about whether it should shift to the Right or fight Tony Blair on the centre ground. Both tactics have flaws: a shift to the Right cedes the centre to Labour, a patch of territory that Mr Blair has shown himself delighted to occupy. Yet if the Tories do not show clear differences between themselves and the Opposition, voters may feel reassured in voting for what will seem like a mere managerial change.

But ideology is a second-order problem if a Government is not capable of running the country properly. BSE was not a party political issue, but it seems extraordinary that, over ten years, ministers could not have made advance plans for the contingency that BSE might be connected with CJD. Instead we saw the spectacle of ministers failing in public, departments squabbling, decisions being overturned and an industry threatened with bankruptcy. Neither consumers nor farmers have been mollified.

Europe is the one issue on which the Conservatives could really outflank Labour. Yet, because of party divisions, the message even there has had to be one of studied opacity. No wonder the voters are determined to punish the Tories. They believe little of what comes out of ministers' mouths; and the words themselves are meagre enough.

PERES BOMBS LEBANON

Israel's security and its Prime Minister's election

The war between Israel and Hezbollah, the armed, extremist Shia organisation based in Lebanon, took a grave and bloody turn yesterday. Israeli warplanes bombed Beirut for the second time in 24 hours, as well as pounding several villages in the war-scarred Bekaa valley. Among the dead were members of Hezbollah and a number of innocent civilians. Disturbingly, 12 Syrian army soldiers were reported also to have been wounded, some critically.

This vicious little war, which predates the Oslo accords, and which has been slowed not at all by the Arab-Israeli peace process, continues to sap Israeli morale by its relentless, attritional character. Counter-attack, in the region's well-worn manner, swiftly followed attack, and the conflict has now acquired a more intense complexion than even most Israelis feared. Deaths, injuries, the evacuation of civilians, the destruction of property and the disruption of commercial life have now occurred on both sides of the border. And Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, has given warning that the attacks on "Hezbollah positions" in Lebanon are not about to cease.

Why has Israel acted in this way? Why did Mr Peres authorise the first direct Israeli attack on Beirut for 14 years? There are two explanations: the first is that the steady increase in the intensity of rocket attacks by Hezbollah on northern Israel could not have gone unanswered; and the second, simply, is that Mr Peres faces the Israeli public in a general election within a few weeks.

The second fact is not unrelated to the first: Mr Peres has always had a reputation in his own country as a leader "soft" on security. This reputation is, of course, baseless. Yet the smear is an old one and Mr Peres has had to spend much time, in the

run-up to the elections, cleansing his name of it. A failure to respond to the Katyusha attacks by Hezbollah — mainly on electorally-sensitive border towns like Kiryat Shmona — would have played straight into the hands of Benjamin Netanyahu and the Likud opposition. In any case, the rocket attacks had begun to acquire disagreeable proportions: Mr Peres would have been correct, even in a non-electoral climate, to adopt a muscular response.

The affair, however, has another dimension, one which illustrates clearly the Israeli Prime Minister's dilemma. The missing element in the Middle East peace is an accord between Israel and Syria: this accord, it has so far been assumed, will deliver the occupied Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for cast-iron guarantees of non-aggression from Damascus. These guarantees, it has also been assumed, would include the end of the war with Hezbollah.

Yesterday's stepping-up of the border war, however, has made peace with Syria increasingly improbable. Ominously, it may also have marked a further stage in Hezbollah's graduation from Syrian puppet to independent menace. The last few months have seen a decline in Syrian control over the Shia organisation: the bombing of Beirut, with its accompanying inflammation of Lebanese nationalism, will only enhance Hezbollah's self-portrait as the guardian of Lebanese sovereignty.

Mr Peres faces a delicate equation: he must hit back at Hezbollah or risk losing votes in the forthcoming election. But he must not use force in such a way as to put in peril a prospective peace with Syria. How he balances these two factors will be a test of his statecraft. But excess here, clearly, would be the enemy of success.

MONTREZ VOS BILLETS

It is no longer 'tickets please' on Network SouthCentral

At least this time the French will have a station to remind them of an historic victory, rather than a terminus for ever associated with the end of Napoleonic gloire. Hastings, conquered yesterday by a transport subsidiary of Generale des Eaux, will surely take pride of place among the south coast stations that are now part of the French-owned London & South Coast rail franchise. The French connection, luckily, does not reach Waterloo: that prize eluded the acquisitive utility company in the first franchising round. Instead, the railway will operate from three London stations: Victoria, London Bridge and Charing Cross, the last having a happy French ring to it as the name reputedly comes from "chère reine", the beloved Queen Eleanor commemorated with crosses around the country.

Passengers to cosmopolitan Brighton may now be hoping for a dash of Gallic charm and cuisine on their daily commute. Will croissants and fresh coffee replace the fading whiff of kippers? Will there be railway hostesses in chic Parisian fashions, wine-tasting in the buffets, beakers full of the warm South as the commuters approach Norwood Junction?

Alas, such dreams founder on the drab realities of rail franchising. There will be few trains *a grande vitesse* on the lines to Kent, Sussex and Surrey: the L&SC will be a faint echo of the mighty London, Brighton and South Coast railway — the company in

whose cloakroom the handbag containing the infant Jack Worthing was deposited. The new company, like the new France, will be cutting costs, and commuters will have to put up with refurbished stock and 32-year-old slam-door trains until the next century.

There are consolations. The parent company made its money in water, and consolidated its track record in trams, buses and coaches in France. It does not have the rail muscle of SNCF, but neither does it have the bloated payroll of the nationalised French network. It promises to invest £10 million in station improvements and better services, and passengers on even the least glamorous lines may be touched by French *élan*: L&SC promises more off-peak services through Lower Sydenham, more Sunday specials to Croydon via Tulse Hill. And with its intimate knowledge of water, Generale des Eaux may discover how to deal with the wrong kind of snow.

To rail historians the deal may seem like the revenge of Joan of Arc. Britain, the inventor of railways, gave France its rail gauge, its habit of driving on the left and the original Stephenson locomotives that plied the first line from St Etienne to Lyons. Will the trains that clatter down to Worthing and Chichester now bear the names of Jeanne d'Arc, Molière and de Gaulle? And will commuters, arriving at a revamped galleonised Victoria remark: "C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la gare."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Social change and scratchcard games

From the Director General of the National Lottery

Sir, It is disappointing that you chose to give credence, in your report of April 10, to allegations from the Directory of Social Change (DSC) that Oflot had failed to carry out appropriate research on National Lottery spending patterns. Despite what the authors of *The National Lottery Yearbook* may claim, the facts are rather different.

My office has conducted research using four different organisations over the last ten months. One of those bodies, National Opinion Polls, has now carried out seven separate surveys on scratchcard purchases. We began this work within four months of the first scratchcard game being launched.

The DSC is well aware of our work in this area. Indeed, we sent them a detailed report on our social-research programme in February.

For the record, I would like to make it clear that there is no evidence from my research that scratchcards have caused excessive participation in the UK. Nor has it shown that they have created damaging social effects. I am, of course, continuing to monitor the situation closely. Should circumstances require it, I will not hesitate to take whatever action is necessary to carry out my statutory responsibilities.

On a separate point, the DSC suggests that Oflot should prosecute retailers who sell National Lottery tickets to those under 16. I report all such incidents to the relevant police force. If the DSC had checked the legislation it would have known that we are not empowered to mount such prosecutions.

Yours faithfully,
PETER A. DAVIS,
Director General,
Office of the National Lottery,
2 Monck Street, SW1,
April 10.

From Mr Irving Luke

Sir, The distribution of lottery cash to worthy causes remains a contentious issue. The solution is obvious... decide by lottery.

Yours etc,
IRVING LUKE,
44 Fairfax Road, NW6,
April 11.

Tory blues

From Dr R. K. Knight

Sir, Three hundred years ago the Tories lost the seat at Tamworth, Staffordshire, to Thomas Guy.

One would like to think that Mr Guy, who sat as the Whig MP from 1695 to 1707, is looking down with satisfaction at the by-election result (report, later editions, April 12). He would certainly be very angry with the present Government, which is trying to destroy the hospital he founded and endowed.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT KNIGHT,
Keston House,
Guy's Hospital,
St Thomas Street, SE1,
April 12.

From Mr M. J. Slater

Sir, In his article, "Beware a slaughter too far" (April 11), Nicholas Budgen refers to rough shooting and states: "I don't want to stop anyone else shooting but I do not want to shoot myself."

In the light of the news today from Staffordshire South East this will be a relief to John Major and the Conservative Party.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. SLATER,
Leycroft, Barnston Loan, Edinburgh,
April 12.

Genius of Vermeer

From Mrs Robina Cooke

Sir, I would like to thank Simon Jenkins for his refreshing article, "The cleansing of Vermeer", (April 6).

I studied and greatly enjoyed 17th-century Dutch masters when at school and have been to Holland several times to continue the pleasure. The quality of light and simple domestic side of Vermeer's work have always appealed to me.

As Mr Jenkins says, not a great deal is known about Vermeer — but why the constant need to search and invent when we are left with such a legacy? Surely these pictures, with all their charm and serenity, say all that we need to know?

Yours sincerely,
ROBINA COOKE,
Llanerch Fochwel,
Welspool, Powys,
April 8.

Time warp

From Mrs F. H. Cave

Sir, I recently discovered what appears to be a grave problem with digital clocks.

How do you explain to a child who says she woke up one morning at "eight dot dot two four", that she could find the comet at 10 o'clock from the Pole Star?

Yours faithfully,
FREDA H. CAVE,
86 Summerlands Park Avenue,
Ilminster, Somerset,
April 7.

Vocal objections to Mary Stuart

From Lady Antonia Fraser

Sir, The Friends of Mary Queen of Scots, if such an association existed (and why not?), would like me to point out that she actually spoke English with a Scottish accent, not a French one (letter, April 12).

Queen Mary spent the first six years of her life speaking Scots, not French. When she went to France in July 1548 she was far from being cut off from Scots-speakers. She took with her numerous Scottish attendants, such as her nurse Jean Sinclair, her governess Lady Fleming, and a train of children of the Scottish nobility, including the girls known as the Four Maries.

As a result Queen Mary was still able to speak Scots fluently when she returned to her native country 13 years later: both the English ambassador and the papal envoy mention the fact that it was her preferred language.

When Mary Queen of Scots fled to England — and captivity — in 1568 she began painfully to learn English from her first captor, at Bolton Castle.

Of course there is nothing wrong with the casting of a distinguished French actress to play the part of Schiller's *Mary Stuart* to signify her "French-ness" (although by the time Schiller's play takes place Queen Mary had spent far more time in England than she had in France). Schiller

takes liberties with history: so why should not a director?

Isabelle Huppert's beauty and grace on stage did the character of Mary Queen of Scots proud. It is true that her comprehensibility on the press night was virtually nil, leaving all the lines, not only the best lines, for Anna Massey's virtuoso Elizabeth I. But then the Friends of Mary Queen of Scots are well used to the contest being rigged in favour of the English Queen...

Yours sincerely,
ANTONIA FRASER,
52 Campden Hill Square, W8,
April 12.

From Sir Rowland Whitehead

Sir, Miss Sandy Carlier is quite right: my wife and I understood not a word of Isabelle Huppert's lines in the National Theatre's production of *Mary Stuart*.

If the actors depicted "real life" then surely they, too, would not have understood her and we should have heard them say, "Eh?", "What's that?", "Come again?" or suchlike. But we didn't.

Yours sincerely,
ROWLAND WHITEHEAD,
Sutton House,
Chiswick Mall, W4,
April 12.

A few factors to feel good about

From Miss Cordelia H. J. Hime

Sir, I am bored with hearing Labour trying to worry people about job insecurity, taxation and living standards. Inflation, the key to securing economic growth that will last and ending the days of "boom and bust", has been below 4 per cent for longer than at any time in the last 50 years.

Unemployment is lower than in any other major European country. The proportion of national income taken by the State is lessening, allowing us to spend or save as we wish.

Many of the burdens on business have been swept away. Cutting red tape and state interference helps business and industry to generate the wealth that makes Britain a more prosperous place.

The benefits of careful management by a Conservative government are clear. Only the Conservatives can build on Britain's success to create a nation of opportunity in the next millennium.

Yours faithfully,
CORDELIA HIME,
(Committee member,
Putney Conservative Association),
Field House, 248 Dover House Road,
Roehampton, SW15,
April 12.

Conflict in Liberia

From the Africa Director of Save the Children

Sir, Contrary to any impression that your readers might gain from a news report in your later editions today, Save the Children intends to stay in Monrovia and not to abandon Liberians in an hour of desperate need. We will be attempting to bear witness to what is happening, to give whatever humanitarian assistance we can and to restart full aid operations at the earliest opportunity.

We cannot do this alone. It is vital that a larger international presence should remain. Your leading article today puts the onus on the United States; but the United Nations as a whole must maintain an effective presence, as the secretary-general has urged.

For five years the UN has sat on the sidelines, sanctioning an experiment in regional peacekeeping whose record has been dubious at best. This is not good enough. With Liberians now

facing a double emergency — hunger and need in the countryside, violent disruption in the capital — the UN at all levels, from field representatives of the key humanitarian agencies up to the Security Council, must re-engage with Liberia.

A political resolution must be found, aid operations must be supported, and the monitoring force (Ecomog) mounted by the Economic Community of West African States needs to be reconstituted, to protect the population, the aid community and the strategic points of the city.

British influence can be particularly significant, as a major funder of Ecomog, as an important link to regional powers including Nigeria and Ghana, as a member of the European Union which is the biggest aid provider, and as a member of the Security Council.

Yours faithfully,
MARK R. BOWDEN
(Africa Director),
The Save the Children Fund,
17 Grove Lane, SE5,
April 11.

Alternative medicine

From Earl Baldwin of Bewdley

Sir, The implied argument in Nigella Lawson's article about complementary medicine ("Don't grow old, grow up", April 3) that non-conventional equals New Age equals quackery has little good evidence to support it but then, as she admits, she has "little in the way of evidence to bring to bear".

New Age is in any case a strange term to apply to a body of medicine which includes such well established disciplines as acupuncture, homeopathy, healing, chiropractic and osteopathy which are used extensively and

to patients' satisfaction for such conditions as hypertension, asthma, back pain, stress, depression and cancer.

Further, no treatment can of itself be "unscientific" as she describes "alternative" medicine: it either works or it doesn't. If it does work it is the job of science to discover why, which may involve rearranging some cherished dogmas.

Yours faithfully,
BALDWIN OF BEWDLEY
(Joint Chairman, Parliamentary Group for Alternative and Complementary Medicine),
House of Lords,
April 4.

Bard and Apocrypha

From Professor the Reverend Canon J. R. Porter

Sir, You report (April 9) that Dr Margaria Stocker finds evidence of Shakespeare's Catholicism from the names of his daughters, Susanna and Judith, which occur in the Apocrypha, books which, she says, were "denounced as bogus by the Protestant establishment of the time".

This statement is nonsense. It was only the Puritans who wholly rejected the Apocrypha. The position of the official Elizabethan Church was quite different. Thus, the 39 Articles of Religion of 1571, while stating that the Apocryphal writings are not to be applied "to establish any doctrine", commends their reading "for example of

life and instruction of manners".

The Calendar of 1561 orders the reading of the Apocrypha, including the whole of Susanna and Judith, once a year in the course of the daily services of morning and evening prayer. The Edwardine and Elizabethan books of homilies, to be read by the clergy to their congregations, frequently quote from the Apocrypha.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. PORTER,
36 Theberton Street, Barnsbury, N1,
April 9.

Weekend Money letters, page 38

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Hymns to sooth a fearful traveller

From Dr Nicholas Marston

Sir, Mrs Lorna Boyce (letter, April 8) seeks guidance for an appropriate hymn to precede her daughter's journey through the Channel Tunnel. She will surely be comforted by Cardinal Newman's splendid *Lead, kindly Light*, amid the encircling gloom.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS MARSTON
St Peter's College, Oxford,
April 9.

From Mrs M. R. Harkness

Sir, Surely the most appropriate hymn for a venture through the Channel Tunnel would be *Rock of ages, cleft for me*.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET HARKNESS,
7 Cloisters Road,
Leichworth Garden City,
Hertfordshire,
April 8.

From Mrs Frances M. Allison

Sir, I suggest Martin Luther's hymn, based on Psalm 130 (*De profundis*): *Out of the depths I cry to thee, Lord God! O hear my prayer!*

Yours sincerely,
FRANCES M. ALLISON,
Coombe Cross Bungalow,
Dittisham, Dartmouth, Devon,
April 8.

From Mrs P. M. Beevers

Sir, Whether crossing to the Continent by air, sea or tunnel, I suggest that *Make me a channel of your peace*, based on a prayer by St Francis, would be appropriate.

Yours faithfully,
P. M. BEEVERS,
84 Main Street, Newbold-on-Avon,
Rugby, Warwickshire,
April 9.

From Mr G. E. Edmondson-Jones

Sir, Writing as one who is nervous of air travel, I think Mrs Boyce's daughter should be encouraged to sing, preferably to herself, *Give us the wings of faith to rise*, by Isaac Watts.

I certainly find it a comforting thought that, if perchance I should meet my Maker on the flight, I had recently expressed the hope of joining the saints above.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD EDMONDSON-JONES,
Richmond Garth,
Oulton Road, Easingwold, York,
April 8.

From Professor W. C. Noble

Sir, Might not a verse from the "commuters' hymn", Bishop Heber's *The Son of God goes forth to war*, suffice: *They climbed the steep ascent of Heaven through peril, soil and pain; O God, to us may grace be given To follow in their train.*

Yours faithfully,
W. C. NOBLE
(Professor of microbiology and a commuter),
University of London,
United Medical and Dental Schools,
St Thomas' Hospital, SE1,
April 8.

From Mr Peter Gladstone

Sir, I am reminded of the occasion in the early 1950s when a helicopter arrived to collect the Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, from The Meadows to attend a meeting elsewhere. This mode of transport was innovative for an Oxford don at that time and Dean Jonathan Lowe sensibly asked some members of the Junior Common Room to pilot the event.

As he left a large group of spectators sang *Hail the day that sees Him rise*. On his return he was greeted with *Low, He comes with clouds descending*.

Yours etc,
PETER GLADSTONE,
Fasque, Fettercairn, Kincardineshire,
April 8.

From Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Cockram (ret'd)

Sir, Mrs Boyce's letter prompts memories of the First World War, when *Christians awake, salute the happy morn when Reville, When He cometh* meant CO's parade. Tell her the old, old story from an officer's lecture and *Praise God from whom all blessings flow* meant Dismiss.

What means this anxious, eager throng? signalled the 5pm serving of tea.

Yours aye,
JOHN COCKRAM
(General Manager),
The Royal British Legion Training Company,
Ordnance Road, Tidworth, Wiltshire,
April 9.

From Mrs Ann Hughes

Sir, With tendencies towards claustrophobia, and mindful of a long interlude in the dark en route to France, *Through the night of doubt and sorrow* would be the only hymn for a journey through the Channel Tunnel.

But I am about to drive northwards. Is there no suitable hymn for the M5/M6 interchange? I am sure that hundreds of motorists would find it a comfort if one could be found, as there is obviously no other solution to the problem.

Yours sincerely,
ANN HUGHES,
Fiddlers Green, Castledore Road,
Tywardreath, Par, Cornwall,
April 10.

cut jobs
'hopes
NEWS IN BRIEF
Boy of 13
on murder
charge

OBITUARIES

VICE-ADMIRAL JOHN BULKELEY

Vice-Admiral John Bulkeley, United States Navy, wartime PT Boat commander, died on April 6 aged 84. He was born in New York on August 19, 1911.



ONE OF THE US Navy's most decorated veterans of the Second World War, John Bulkeley was the quintessential PT Boat man, the exploits of whose exploits in the Philippines in 1942 were memorably described in W. L. White's book *They Were Expendable* (1942) and later re-enacted by Robert Montgomery and John Wayne in John Ford's classic film of the same name. Perhaps Bulkeley's most notable mark on events was his evacuation in March 1942 of General Douglas MacArthur from Corregidor to unoccupied Mindanao, from where he and his party were airlifted in two Flying Fortresses to safety in Australia. It was on landing that MacArthur, with his flair for public relations, made his famous "I will return" declaration. In those dark hours, such an eventuality seemed remote, but MacArthur was to discharge his promise when he came ashore again in the Philippines early in 1945.

But for Bulkeley and his six-boat squadron this was actually merely one episode in five months of constant action against the Japanese. In the dreadful months of early 1942, when Allied land, sea and air power seemed doomed to be swept from the Pacific theatre by the Japanese onslaught, the fast Patrol Torpedo Boats were involved in some desperately brave actions against much superior forces.

Graduating from the Annapolis Naval Academy in 1933, Bulkeley was a young lieutenant in the Pacific Fleet at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Commanding a group of PT Boats, he took part in the defence of the Philippines against the Japanese.

The fall of the islands was a painful episode in the life of the American Caesar, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. Despite improvisation, great courage and some reinforcements, muddle and indecision allowed Japanese air power a free hand in wiping out Clark Field as well as other American airfields and bases. Nevertheless the Japanese assault was resisted for far longer in the Philippines than anywhere else in the Pacific and South-East Asia theatre. Corregidor actually held out until May 1942. Although perceived as a severe blow at the time, the five-month defence of the islands had badly disrupted the Japanese timetable, since General Homma had been allocated only 50 days to complete the campaign (Malaya and Singapore had been conquered in two months). By the time it fell, the US Navy was almost ready to go on to the counter-offensive, and the Japanese were soon to experience the reverses of the Coral Sea and Midway.

During the struggle for the Philippines, President Roosevelt repeatedly ordered MacArthur to turn his command over to General Wainwright and

leave, in order to be available to take charge of the build-up and retaliation. It was like ordering a captain to be the first to leave a sinking ship. MacArthur, with his strong West Point notions of honour, had pledged himself to die with his men.

Nevertheless he was eventually persuaded, and with the naval C-in-C, Admiral Chester Nimitz, and their brilliant galaxy of subordinates, MacArthur subsequently planned and executed what informed commentators judge to be the most strategically inspired campaign in history — the defeat of Japan in the Pacific.

Bulkeley had already distinguished himself in a number of actions against invasion shipping off Bataan, all of which were conducted in circumstances of the greatest difficulty. His squadron's supply base had been completely destroyed in the Japanese bombing raid on Cavite on December 10, 1941, and they were left without spare engines. Ammunition for the PT Boats' 50-inch machineguns had to be scrounged from whatever units — army, navy, marines or air force — could be persuaded to part with it. In addition, all its 100 octane fuel had been adulterated with a wax by a Japanese saboteur, so that the boats' carburetors and filters needed to be cleaned after two hours' running.

Without any shore backup all mechanical and electrical repairs and maintenance had to be done by the officers and men of the squadron in isolated, mosquito-infested inlets, frequently under sudden and violent enemy air attack. It was a tribute to Bulkeley's courage and to his engineering background that his boats continued not only to function but to fight and cause severe harassment to the invasion forces.

MacArthur himself described the bearded and swashbuckling PT Boat commander officer as "Johnny Bulkeley, that bold buckaroo with the cold green eyes". By contrast, Bulkeley remembered MacArthur on the embankment quayside at Corregidor, looking emaciated in his worn khaki, his face dead white, and a nervous twitch at the corner of the mouth.

The passage from Corregidor to



"Well, I'm home": General MacArthur in April 1945 on Corregidor from where he had been evacuated by Bulkeley, left, in 1942

Mindanao was made in very rough weather, in which it was vital to anticipate and avoid Japanese warships and aircraft. All the party were very seasick. But three of Bulkeley's four PT Boats survived the passage through 600 miles of enemy-held waters, in spite of the fact that their speed was much diminished by their makeshift engine maintenance and lack of spare parts.

For his service in the defence of the Philippines, Bulkeley was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration. In 1943 he played his part in breaking through the barrier of the Bismarck Archipelago and the invasion of New Guinea, shooting up Japanese supply convoys and strafing shore installations. On one occasion, he sent a boarding party in old navy style to capture a ship that would not sink.

Moving to the European theatre in 1944, Bulkeley, now a lieutenant-commander, took part in the invasion of Normandy, where he commanded a group of PT Boats and minesweepers in support of the landings at Utah Beach. Later in June, when the forts on the digue, the big outer breakwater of Cherbourg harbour, were proving obstinate, he took PT-510 with PT-521 in company to try and quell them with machinegun fire. From ranges as close as 150 yards and drawing a deluge of 88-mm shells down in its vicinity, Bulkeley's boat had to circle the damaged PT-521, laying a smokescreen while repairs were made. Next day, the forts eventually capitulated after repeated bombing by aircraft.

Bulkeley's next action was in support of Operation Dragoon, the Allied invasion of southern France in August 1944. Commanding the destroyer *Endicott* and the British gunboats *Aphis* and *Scorab* with a number of PT boats, he controlled the Western Division-

ary Group. (His opposite number in the Eastern Divisionary Group was a certain Lieutenant-Commander Douglas Fairbanks Jr.) While bombarding the coast near La Ciotat in order to mislead the enemy about the real invasion point, *Endicott* intercepted and sank the German ships *Capriola* and *Ninet Allah*, the first an ex-Italian corvette and the second a former Egyptian armed yacht. After this action Bulkeley's force rescued 200 survivors.

Bulkeley's other awards included the Navy Cross, two Army Distinguished Service Crosses, a Distinguished Service Medal, two Silver Stars, two Legion of Merit awards and the Purple Heart.

In 1961 President Kennedy (who had been a PT Boat officer junior to Bulkeley in the Pacific) appointed him commanding officer of the Guantanamo base in Cuba. It was during the period of rising tension that was later to culminate in the missile crisis of October 1962.

Fidel Castro tried to get the US to abandon the base by, among other measures, building machinegun positions overlooking the perimeter and shutting off the fresh water supply. Bulkeley told reporters that the machine-gun emplacements were useless and referred to them as "Cuban landscaping". When, subsequently, Castro offered to turn the water back on for half an hour each day, Bulkeley told him not to bother — he had already made other arrangements.

Bulkeley originally retired from the Navy in 1974 as president of the Navy Board of Inspection and Survey, but was later retained on active duty and continued in that position until 1988, having completed 55 years' naval service.

He is survived by his wife Hilda and their five children.

DARIO BELLEZZA

Dario Bellezza, Italian poet and novelist, died of an AIDS-related disease in Rome on March 31 aged 51. He was born in 1944.



"BOYS, literature, cats" — these were the self avowed loves of Dario Bellezza, who in both verse and prose explored the often desperate and squalid lives of young homosexuals, preying or being preyed upon, on the streets of Rome. Like the heterosexual Alberto Moravia, whom he first admired and later castigated as "bourgeois", the city of Rome and the ceaseless trade in human flesh pined on its pavements in the very sinews of his work. But unlike Moravia, and instead like Pier Paolo Pasolini, whose fate — sordidly battered to death by a reluctant pick-up in a Rome parking lot — he managed to avoid, the homosexual component of that trade is germane. For Pasolini, Bellezza was simply "il miglior poeta".

Bellezza gained an entry into literary life when, on impulse on a day in 1965, he knocked on the door of the writer Enzo Siciliano, brandishing a typescript. Profoundly impressed by what he read, Siciliano introduced the young writer to the novelist Elsa Morante (who was for a time the wife of Alberto Moravia) and later to Moravia himself. Later he met Pasolini. These introductions opened the pages of Moravia's periodical *Nuovi Argomenti* to him, and it was there that his first, highly explicit, poems were published.

There was something self-consciously "naughty" about these, with their use of the Italian equivalents of four-letter words to describe Bellezza's amorous experiences. Yet when Bellezza's first novel, *L'innocenza* (Innocence) was published in 1970, it surprised readers by the chastity and restraint of its language. Nino, a 15-year-old orphan boy, comes home from boarding school to find that his only relations, three aunts, have disappeared. From then on he is left to wander through a Rome whose streets and piazzas have taken on the surreal quality of one of de Chirico's urban landscapes.

The influence of both Moravia and Pasolini could be seen in this. Indeed, to the self contradictory mind of Pasolini (known far too exclusively in this country for his notoriety as the maker of films such as *120 Giorni di Sodoma*, and not enough for his provoking poetry and novels) Bellezza's

work, steeped as it was in teasing paradoxes, was particularly congenial. And yet it was the Perugian poet Sandro Penna, whose taste for biting, malicious gossip he shared, with whom he had the greatest affinity. Like Penna, too, he preferred the company of his fanciulli (lads) to that of writers and critics.

L'innocenza was followed by *Lettere da Sodoma* (1972, *Letters from Sodoma*), again a carefully crafted and obviously "literary" performance.

Bellezza's first collection of poems was *Inveniva e Lascivioses* (1971, *Inventiveness and Lasciviousness*), a volume which immediately set him apart from most of his contemporaries. In marked contrast with what is recklessly suggested by the title, the tone is one of almost Calvinistic moral severity.

Nevertheless, Bellezza's plain, unadorned words, explore an abyss of spiritual suffering. The following is characteristic:

*Dio! Non attendo che la morte.
Ignoro il corso della storia.
So solo
la bestia che è in me e la tra-*

*(God! I only wait for death.
I am ignorant of the course
of history. I know only
the beast which is in me and
the barks.)*

When Bellezza published his next novel *Il carnefice* (The Executioner) in 1973, critics were aware of a greater simplicity and directness in his approach. The work appeared to have gained from the greater freedom of his poetry, and turned its back on the conscious polish of the earlier novels. In its claustrophobic, self-indulgent eroticism it invited comparison with the *Cena Trimalchionis* of Petronius, although the geniality and good humour of the latter was never one of Bellezza's fortes.

Il carnefice presented a garish and compelling — if morbidly Kafkaesque — account of a world populated by drug addicts and slaves to sensuality. Yet, in keeping with Bellezza's early, innate Calvinism, the characters in the book are persecuted by two mysterious moral agents, executioners who represent the *carnefice* of the title.

If, unlike Penna or Cavafy (the greatest of the century's homosexual poets), Bellezza failed to transcend his own lavishly sado-masochistic world, within his genre he was undoubtedly a complex and haunted writer.

Certainly he never sought to glamorise either his lifestyle or his condition. A few days before his death, he said of his fate: "Il mio Aids, punizione di Dio."

PEARL PLEYDELL-BOUVERIE

Pearl Pleydell-Bouverie, mother of Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, died on April 10 aged 80. She was born on January 6, 1895.

PEARL PLEYDELL-BOUVERIE was the widow of the 2nd Lord Montagu of Beaulieu. Her first husband was thirty years her senior and, when he died in 1929, he left his young widow to run a large estate, as well as bringing up a young family, single-handed. She rose to the challenge magnificently.

She also, from the age of ten, kept a diary, noting down her impressions of two world wars, numerous foreign trips and her life as stewardess of Beaulieu with a marvellous and witty eye. This meant that much later in life, she was "discovered" by historians. Earlier this year, she could be seen in a recent television interview, sitting bolt upright and discussing very fluently

the hazards of the early days of motoring. Alice Pearl Crake was the daughter of a major in the Rifle Brigade. One of her earliest memories was as a five-year-old, waving a tiny Union Jack to celebrate the relief of Mafeking. Her father died when she was young, and she was brought up, as a result, to be more sensible of financial matters than some of her peers. While her friends were visiting courtyards in Paris, she found a local dressmaker to copy the fashions. She was educated at private school in London and came out in 1913. She was ignorant of world politics as a girl having led, in her words, a "spoilt" life. But she recorded in her diary the following year reading the "sad" news that Archduke Francis Ferdinand had been assassinated.

The war changed her life irrevocably as friend after friend was killed. One of these

was Harry Cubitt, eldest son of Lord and Lady Ashcombe, to whom she was unofficially engaged, and who fell on the Somme. At the beginning of the war, Pearl was living with her aunt and uncle at Crathorne Hall in Yorkshire. Their house was turned into a convalescent home and Pearl, working as a VAD, helped to make the beds and to prepare food for the soldiers. One day she saw from her window a zeppelin being shot down in the sea off Hartlepool. Later in the war she returned to London and found work as a filing clerk in the War Office, working in Intelligence.

In 1920 she visited the South of France with her mother, and there met her first husband, the recently-widowed 2nd Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, who was staying in the same hotel. She became his second wife in August that year at St Margaret's, Westminster.

The second baron was a motoring enthusiast and actively involved, through his seat in the House of Lords, with improving road conditions for cars. He drove his wife (who learnt to drive) in a Rolls-Royce across Europe, Persia and Palestine, and in 1922 over the frontier into India. This coincided with the visit of the Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VIII), and Pearl sat next to the Prince at dinner when she was staying with the Earl of Reading, then Viceroy of India.

In England she became an accomplished hostess. She loved sailing (being the founder of the Beaulieu River Sailing Club in 1931) and raced during Cowes Week with King George VI in his yacht *Britannia*. He presented her with a brooch to thank her. Queen Mary was not so enthusiastic about boats, and would spend time quietly at Beaulieu, to get away from the crowds.

The 2nd baron died in 1929, leaving Pearl with four children under the age of eight to bring up alone, and to run the estate until her son Edward could legally inherit at the age of 25. The estate — which had been in the family since the 16th century — was vast, then consisting of more than 10,000 acres. Fortunately, Pearl had with her a very able agent, Captain Harry Widnell, and the support of the trustees.

She proved to be methodical and conscientious in all business dealings, and coped well, being aided by the high regard in which she was held by the local people. She could remember the names of all the families on the estate — not because she felt she ought, but because she was genuinely interested in other people's lives. In 1930 she succeeded her husband as a Beaulieu church warden, and was still active in her post until last year. This made her — with 65 years' service — probably the longest serving warden in the Church of England.

In 1936 she married Captain the Hon. Edward Pleydell-Bouverie, brother of the 7th Earl of Radnor, whom she had met briefly in India in 1922. They had a son the following year. Soon after their marriage, he was appointed commander of the royal steam



yacht *Victoria and Albert*. Occasionally King George VI and his Queen and the two young princesses would visit Beaulieu for picnics on the beach, or in the New Forest.

During the war a number of houses on the estate were used by the SOE, and Beaulieu also became the centre of local air-raid and Red Cross operations. Pearl Pleydell-Bouverie co-ordinated affairs while her

husband was at sea. The local hospital supply depot was stationed in her drawing room, and she found accommodation for young evacuees from the bombing of Portsmouth.

In 1951, a few months before she relinquished stewardship of the estate to her son Edward, her second husband died, and she moved to the Lodge on the Beaulieu estate.

She was, initially, not too impressed by her son's growing collection of vintage cars, which were originally housed in the hall of Palace House. "I was frightened by the smell of petrol,"

She spent her last half-century immersed in work for local organisations: the Women's Institute, the British Legion, the Girl Guides. At the age of 90, she was still insisting on running meals-on-wheels to people who were some years her junior. She continued to entertain and to go to parties, and visited Texas every year, where one daughter had settled and where she had many American friends. But her main interest was in her rapidly expanding family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She tried, as far as possible, to ignore old age and found the last few months of her life irritating, because she was unable physically to do the things she wanted. But her mind remained clear until almost the very end. She was determined to attend a church service this Easter, but, sadly, was prevented by her final illness.

Pearl Pleydell-Bouverie is survived by three daughters and one son from her first marriage, and by her son from the second.

PERSONAL COLUMN

SERVICES: ANTHONY...
SITUATIONS WANTED: MARIAN...
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: FINEST...
GIFTS: A BIRTHDAY...
ANNOUNCEMENTS: BRIGHTON...
TRUSTEE ACTS: BOWDEN...
LONDON PUBLIC GARDENS: When the area...
ON THIS DAY: April 13, 1912...
HARRODS: SPRING PIANO FORTNIGHT...
YOUR WILL: If you are making...

NEWS

Right calls for change

John Major faced a fresh outbreak of unrest in the Tory party as right-wing MPs demanded a change of direction in the wake of a devastating by-election setback.

Hours after the Labour Party inflicted a stunning defeat in the Staffordshire South East by-election, senior Conservatives issued a warning of further electoral losses unless new policies were introduced swiftly. **Pages 1, 9**

Thousands flee Israeli jets

Israeli helicopters and jets carried out a series of attacks on Beirut and other Lebanese towns and villages. Syria said one of its soldiers was killed and seven were seriously wounded at an air defence position in the Lebanese capital. **Pages 1, 11**

Teenager on run

A teenager accused of murder was on the run after escaping from a social worker taking him to a swimming pool for a "mobility" programme. **Page 1**

No change trains

Millions of commuters were condemned to travelling on 30-year-old "slam-door" trains for the foreseeable future by the new French owners. **Page 2**

Royal challenge

Prince Edward challenged the belief that the Queen Mother harboured a grudge against the Duchess of Windsor. **Page 3**

Parents warned

Schools are to be allowed to turn down pupils whose parents refuse to accept policies on discipline, said Gillian Shephard. **Page 4**

Children at risk

Children who are involved in accidents are more likely to consider suicide. **Page 6**

Legal attack

The Lord Chief Justice launched a fresh attack on Michael Howard's sentencing proposals. **Page 8**

Elgar letters

Letters by Edward Elgar, in which the composer discusses masterpieces such as *The Dream of Gerontius* are to be sold at auction. **Page 10**

New Liberia crisis

A US task force was heading for Liberia during a complete breakdown of law and order. **Page 13**

Time to die

A doctor in Darwin is about to launch a computer program that could soon become the Australian way of death. **Page 12**

Girl pilot's death

The smiling face of Jessica Dubroff, who died in a crash while trying to become the youngest person to pilot a plane across America, adorned every US newspaper front page. **Page 15**

Working class and sure of it

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader who told the BBC that he was "middle-class" was rebuked by his 85-year-old father. John Prescott said: "How can he be anything other than working class? John worked as a steward on ships serving drinks. If that's not working class I cannot think what is". **Page 1**



Tony Blair, the Labour Party leader, with President Clinton in the Oval Office yesterday during his visit to Washington. **Page 1**

OPINION

By-election blues: No wonder voters are determined to punish the Tories. They believe little of what comes from ministers. **Page 21**

Peres bombs Lebanon: Mr Peres faces a delicate equation: he must hit back at Hezbollah or risk losing votes in the election. **Page 21**

LETTERS

Vocal objections to Mary Stuart; social change and lottery; hymns to travel with "feel-good" factors; Tory blues; Vermeer: alternative medicine. **Page 21**

COLUMNS

Anatole Kaletsky: The first of six articles of the most detailed scrutiny of Labour policy ever undertaken. **Page 20**

John Redwood: The seats lost in by-elections in the last Parliament did not prove difficult to win back in the general election, but 1992 brought the majority down with a bump. **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

Vice-Admiral John Bulkeley, PT Boat commander; **Dario Bellezza,** poet; **Pearl Lloyd-Bouvier,** mother of Lord Montagu. **Page 23**

BUSINESS

Lloyd's is confident of lifting its settlement offer above £3 billion, enabling it to reduce the burden of losses that have fallen on names. **Page 25**

Power: Electricity shares were ahead driven by reports that the MMC is to clear PowerGen's £1.9 billion bid for Midland Electric and National Power's £2.8 billion bid for Southern. **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 22.6 to 3766.8. Sterling was unchanged at \$3.6 after a fall from \$1.5137 to \$1.5112 and a rise from DM2.2719 to DM2.2731. **Page 28**

SPORT

Golf: Corey Pavin set the early pace in the second round of the Masters with a six-under-par 66. **Page 48**

Rugby union: Vernon Pugh, chairman of the International Board, is prepared to mediate in the dispute between the Rugby Football Union and the senior clubs. **Page 48**

Cricket: The Test and County Cricket Board have decided to take no action against Devon Malcolm over his management criticism. **Page 48**

ARTS

Sad spectacle: "Let's resuscitate the British circus," Richard Morrison writes. **Page 17**

Allen at war: Martin Sherman's *Some Sunny Day*, depicts an alien into wartime Cairo. **Page 17**

Below age: Iain Robertson, Britain's newest film star, is so young that, at 14, he is not allowed to see *Small Faces*. **Page 19**

CAR 96

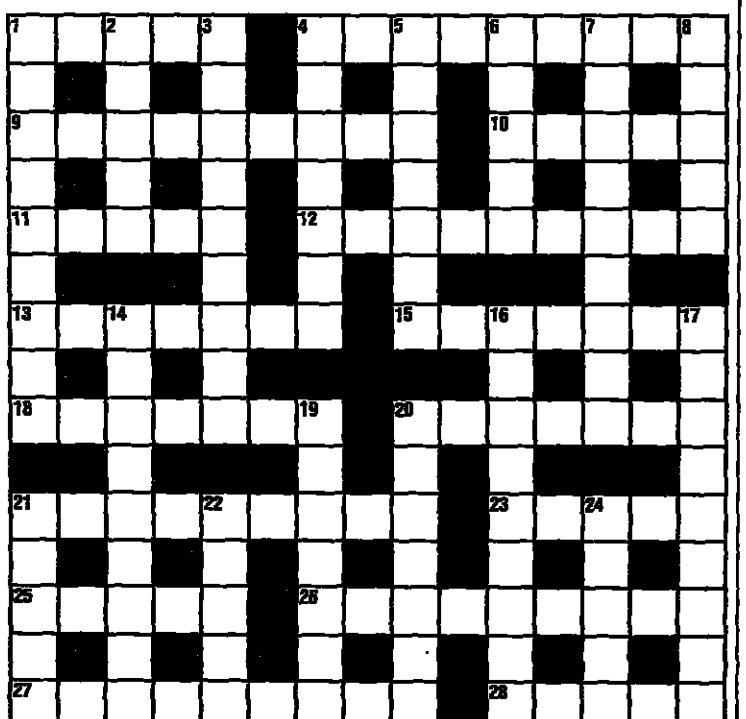
Handling the Dodge Ram

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,141

ABERLOUR A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition.

will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

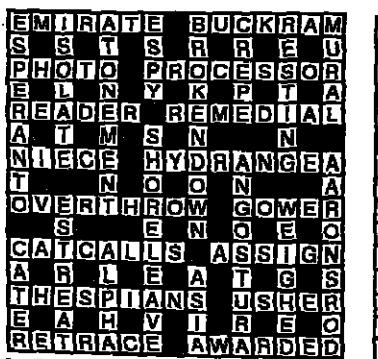
Name/Address



ACROSS

- Steer front of vessel into sharp bend on river (5).
- Try to give a party (4,1,4).
- Illumination from logs showing more than half of Ireland in conflict (9).
- Record chemical salt in book? Just the reverse (5).
- Some workshy drones employed in health centre (5).
- City's crest wore out (9).
- Foot and inch put in pattern (7).
- Objectable racket interrupted by order (7).
- Undergo suffering to obtain reward (7).
- Salad leaves with bits of endive and tomato - it could produce 9 (7).
- Lad, disturbed, stole baby (9).
- Worshipper of former emperor, a despot overthrown (5).
- Extremely smart king presented it to unknown couple (5).
- Young insect, one responsible for mess (9).
- Withdraw finance - money formerly produced in changes (4,5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,135

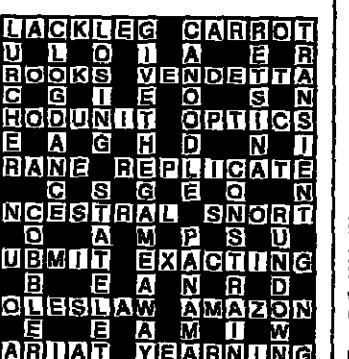


LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: G. C. Dickinson, Teddington, Middlesex; A. V. Tobin, Northern Moor, Manchester; C. H. Davies, Brimley Hill, West Midlands; N. Kennedy, Brixham, Surrey; C. V. St. John, Mary Tavy, Devon.

DOWN

- Unsatisfactory article girl is ready to wear (3,3,3).
- Fed up with food in conversation (5).
- Suffering from 16 in spring, applied lubrication (4,5).
- Suffering from 16 means there's a direct course to follow (7).
- Old surgeon has date with new (7).
- Saw overseas lawyer in time (5).
- A cricketer gets runs in defeat - a very good score (9).
- Habitat right for pigeon (5).
- Result of one tiny beer? Rarely (9).
- Disaffected red agents turned (9).
- VIP was visibly hurt, disabled (7).
- Offer for sale old, unfinished glassware (7).
- Brush to remove dirt (5).
- Head off to cause trouble in store (3,2).
- Auction includes black, black fur (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,140



TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wilt, Gloucestershire, Somerset	704
Bedfordshire, Bucks, Herts & Essex	705
Northants, Suffolk, Cambs	706
West Midlands & Shropshire	707
North West, Lancashire & Cheshire	708
Yorkshire, Humberside & Wales	709
Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincoln & Humberside	712
Dyfed & Powys	713
Gwynedd & Clwyd	714
N.W. England	715
W. & S. Wales	716
W. & S. Wales	717
Cumbria & Lake District	718
N.E. England	719
W. Scotland	720
Edinburgh & Fife	721
Edinburgh & Fife	722
E. Scotland	723
Highland & Islands	724
Highland & Islands	725
Highland & Islands	726
Highland & Islands	727

Weathercall is charged at 30p per minute (cheapest rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
East/Surrey/Sussex/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
North/Surrey/Sussex/Berks/Bucks/Oxon	733
M25 London Orbital only	734
National traffic and roadworks	735
National motorways	736
West Country	737
Wales	738
Midlands	739
East Anglia	740
North-west England	741
North-east England	742
Scotland	743
North-west England	744
North-east England	745
Scotland	746
AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheapest rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.	

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Region	Code
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
East/Surrey/Sussex/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
North/Surrey/Sussex/Berks/Bucks/Oxon	733
M25 London Orbital only	734
National traffic and roadworks	735
National motorways	736
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HIGHER TIDES

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Jersey, 15C (59F); lowest day temp: Stockholm, 0C (32F); highest night temp: Chichester, 10C (50F); lowest night temp: Lowestoft, Suffolk, 6.7C.

FORECAST

General: showery with some bright spells. England and Wales will have rain or sleet at times - mainly over hills - becoming lighter during the day. There may be snow over north Wales. Eastern counties of England should be drier and brighter, although it will be cold.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will also be cold. Northern and eastern Scotland will have bright spells, and perhaps some wintry showers. Other areas will have more cloud and rain or sleet at times.

London, SE England, Central S England: outbreaks of rain, becoming lighter and more patchy. Wind easterly, moderate. Rather cold. Max 10C (50F).

E Anglia, E England, NE England: outbreaks of rain, becoming lighter and more patchy. Wind easterly, moderate. Rather cold. Max 10C (50F).

Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N. Ireland: outbreaks of rain or sleet, becoming lighter. Wind easterly, moderate to fresh. Cold. Max 9C (48F).

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales: mostly dry, some bright intervals. Wind variable, mainly north-westerly. Max 11C (52F).

Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands: bright spells, some light wintry showers at times. Wind easterly, fresh to strong. Cold. Max 8C (46F).

Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: mainly dry, bright spells. Wind southeasterly, fresh to strong. Cold. Max 8C (46F).

Outlook: cloudy, further rain at times especially in west. Becoming brighter in South East.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

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London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
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North/Surrey/Sussex/Berks/Bucks/Oxon	733
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North-east England	799
Scotland	800

ABROAD

61 th	Malaysia	19 66	S Rm
39 c	Malaga	22 72	S Fm
50 t	Mado	18 64	s
17 r	Mafra	18 64	Sa
70 l	Mafra	23 73	Sa
64 f	Miami	24 75	Sa
56 dk	Milan	17 63	Sa
53 i	Montreal	10 50 X	Sa
64 s	Munich	10 50	Sydn
34 i	N Delhi	34 93	Tai
55 c	N Delhi	18 61	Tai
55 c	Nairobi	26 73	Tai
56 s	Naples	18 63	Tokyo
97 r	Nice	17 64	Tokyo
57 d	Oslo	3 37	Tokyo
64 s	Oslo	3 37	Tokyo
46 c	Palang	15 59	Vancouver
48 c	Perth	21 70	Vancouver
48 c	Pristina	11 52	Vancouver
48 c	Roskilde	11 52	Vancouver
109 s	Sao Paulo	19 64	Winnipeg
70 s	Sao Paulo	25 77	Winnipeg
	Riyadh	29 82	Zurich

Use Thursday local time X = not available

سنة ١٤١٧

SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

BOOKS



Anyone for Denis? Carol Thatcher's biography

Page 11

PLUS: Betjeman on churches, page 11

TRAVEL



Sailing and savouring the exotic Caribbean

Pages 16, 17

PLUS: Insider's Paris, page 21

FOOD



Paul Heiney raises the banner for home-made cooking

Page 3

PLUS: a shop for chocoholics, page 3

GOING OUT



A new guide to arts and events nationwide

Pages 12, 13

PLUS: At Your Service, page 13

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

BABY BISTROS: THE NEW FRENCH REVOLUTION

by Kate Muir

This is not just a crisis — this is a revolution," announces Claude Lebey, France's equivalent of Egon Ronay. As with the last French revolution, blood must be spilt, and lined up before the guillotine are the aristocrats of cuisine, the grand chefs of Paris.

M Lebey, the Robespierre of gastronomy, is storming the *ancien régime* of restaurants stiff with etiquette and obscenely priced. He is leading the countercharge of the baby bistros — small restaurants opened in the 1990s by fine chefs — which are winning custom with their moderate prices and innovative cooking. While many of France's prestigious restaurants lie half-empty, the modern bistros have two-week waiting lists.

All around, the grand stars of the *Michelin Guide* are falling. Pierre Gagnaire's three-star restaurant in St Etienne was forced to close last month through lack of custom. La Tour d'Argent — a Paris landmark overlooking Notre Dame since 1582 — lost its third *Michelin* star last week. The chefs of La Tour d'Argent and the two-star Crillon are being investigated in a bribery scandal. Worst of all, the renowned Maxim's was demoted by the *Gault-Millau Paris Guide* from four toques (chef's hats) in its heyday to *none at all*.

Haute cuisine is suffering from a mouldering malaise. Food critics such as M Lebey say culinary excess and the days of "Let them eat cake" are over. The people have had enough cake and want bread, preferably wholemeal and at sensible prices.

M Lebey's guides to restaurants and bistros are to Paris what the *Zagat* guide is to New York — indispensable and direct — or the *Michelin Guide* in this country. M Lebey himself is very much a gentleman, prone to properly long socks and well-cut jackets. He operates from an office overlooking the Parc Monceau, supplied with fine paintings and strong espresso. He is, without doubt, a man of discerning tastes.

His words can seal a restaurant's fate, either way. His present philosophy is this: "There was a golden age of restaurants in France when people went to eat well without even thinking of the price. Now they have become money-conscious like the Americans, and today there is no place for restaurants costing £60 to £100 a head. A few of the great three-star restaurants costing about £130 pounds a head will survive, as not just a culinary but a dramatic experience like going to the theatre, but that's it."

The symbolic battleground of the revolution is Maxim's, probably Paris's — and the world's — most famous restaurant. It opened on the Rue Royale in 1893 to cater to hansom cab drivers waiting on the nearby Place de la Concorde. A waiter called Maxim took over the business and turned the restaurant into the essential schmoozing and dining place for the aristocracy and the demi-monde.

Maxim's Art Nouveau wood panelling, stained glass ceilings and inlaid brass clocks surround banquettes previously occupied by Edward VII, Maria Callas (very fond of the *por-au-feu*), the Duke and Duchess of Windsor (who ordered their game rare), Aristotle Onassis and Charlie Chaplin, the only man allowed entry without proper evening dress. The specialities were turtle

Continued on page 2, col 1

INSIDE STORY...2 FOOD...3 GARDENING...4 PROPERTY...6 SHOPPING...9 BOOKS...10,11 GOING OUT...12,13 TRAVEL...15-21 GAMES...23

GROWING TIP N° 4



I LOVE PLANTING UP BASKETS & CONTAINERS AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR

HERE ARE SOME TIPS. CONTAINERS ARE PRONE TO DRYING OUT. USING LEVINGTON TUB AND HANGING BASKET COMPOST WILL HELP.

PUT UNIFEED SACHETS IN THE COMPOST WHEN YOU'RE PLANTING. THEY RELEASE PLANT FOOD ALL SEASON.

SO YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER MIXING AND MEASURING FEEDS.

THEY'LL GIVE YOU SUPERB COLOUR AND MORE GARDENING TIME.

INSIDE STORY



IN: the relaxed L'Epi Dupin, and chef François Pasteau

Continued from page 1
soup and Merry Widow pancakes.

Now those decadent days are over. M Lebey says: "Maxim's has lost its soul." In response, Maxim's brought in a new chef, but at 62 he was considered to be old blood rather than new.

At this point the battle became public, and rather violent. It was fought by means of open letters in the pages of *Le Figaro*. M Lebey struck the first blow in a letter to Pierre Cardin, fashion designer, logo salesman and owner of Maxim's: "If you want Maxim's to become, once again, a true Parisian institution, you must offer relatively classic, perfect cooking, with good wines at good prices, for £45 for lunch and £60 for dinner," prescribed M Lebey.

A scandalised M Cardin snapped back: "Maxim's will never become 'une gargote' — a rather grotty neighbourhood restaurant, with a steady daily clientele. Maxim's makes it quite clear if you are the wrong sort of clientele, as we discovered last week. We got a reservation an hour before lunch with no trouble at all and, when we arrived, Maxim's was half empty. Of course, we had forgotten about the rules for proper dress — suits and ties. My companion did his best by borrowing my velvet scarf and wearing it cravat-style. The maître d' spotted his guilty manner immediately and blocked our way. 'What sort of trousers, exactly, is Monsieur wearing?' he said, peering down at his khaki chinos. The trousers were rumpled, but not jeans, so they passed muster. He was not

fooled by the scarf. A basket of bow and regular ties was proffered, and we sheepishly followed the maître d' — who reminded my companion strongly of his headmaster — into the restaurant.

We were placed side by side on a banquette in the "omnibus" section, so we stared out at the diners on the opposite wall. It was rather like being on the Tube, except everyone else seemed to be at least 70. It was by no means a hip and happening Parisian scene.

At last our waiter arrived with the card with the serious numbers: the salad was £19, the quail egg and caviar starter was £57, and main courses hovered around £35. The veg were £10.50. He greeted our choices (the cheapest) with an appropriately servile: "Très bien, très bien." For fun, we asked for the wine list, and irritated the sommelier by pondering a Petrus 1955 Pomerol at £1,307 before settling for a glass of house white.

The food, I have to say, was delicious. The atmosphere — literally — was the problem. We were just tucking into delicate medallions of fish in a coulis of langoustines and basil when five fat businessmen at the next table simultaneously lit up five fat Havana cigars.

For roughly the price of the salad at Maxim's, I can have a three-course *prix fixe* dinner at my local bistro, L'Epi Dupin, while breathing and dressing freely. The menu there: fresh tagliatelle with salmon in basil and garlic; fillet of sea bream with mushrooms and virgin olive oil; soufflé crêpe with lemon flambé in vodka.

Indeed, M Lebey made L'Epi Dupin his bistro of the year, first in his new category of "les bistros modernes des cuisiniers malins" — bistros with smart, modern cooking. At under £40 a head and often half that, they are the boom

OUT: the palatial Les Ambassadeurs. The new *bons vivants* want lower prices and less formal surroundings and are voting with their feet

town for the new *bons vivants*.

Many of France's two and three-star Michelin chefs anticipated this trend and started opening baby bistros. There are 19 in Paris alone, a few in the provinces, opened by celebrity chefs such as Michel Rostang, Jacques Cagna and Guy Savoy. The staffing costs are much cheaper, and the savings is passed to the customer.

Curiously, it is the same people that go to the baby bistro twice a week and occasionally to the grand restaurant which owns it. People who want to wear a cashmere pullover and jeans, not a suit," M Lebey says. He also acknowledges that today's customers are not merely intimidated but irritated by a flurry of servile men in tailcoats hovering at their table. "They prefer a convivial, relaxed atmosphere."

Naturally, this change in popular taste is not merely a crisis for restaurateurs, but for the French nation: *la gastronomie* is part of the *patrimoine* and taken most seriously. There have been

soul-searching debates in the press and protests by worried chefs under the Eiffel Tower. Even the culture minister, Philippe Douste-Blazy, has become involved, meeting M Gagnaire to discuss his three-star failure.

The problem is that the eating habits of the French have changed utterly over the past 30 years. In 1965, the average Frenchman spent two and a half hours at the table each day. Now he gobbles three meals in an hour and 20 minutes. No wonder the economic soufflé has collapsed, because the great restaurants are still catering for the past rather than the present.

Jean-Claude Vrinat of the three-star restaurant Taillevent admits: "Frankly, we have had things too easy for the past three decades. We have to understand that the good days were the exception, not the rule. The French superiority complex is over. Now is the time for people to begin striving again."

Insider's Guide to Paris page 21

PARIS: WHAT'S IN AND WHAT'S OUT

OUT

Maxim's
Reminiscent of an expensive wine which turns out to be pretty ordinary when opened and full of sediment. Worth checking out the wonderful Art Nouveau decor if someone else is paying. Dress code draconian, food pleasant. Clientele past its prime.
33 Rue Royale (00 33 1 42 65 27 94).

Les Ambassadeurs

Palatial room overlooking the Place de la Concorde. This was where Claudia Schiffer and David Copperfield got engaged, but that hip moment has passed. There is a Fr340 (£45) lunch menu for the "poor" during the week. Foie gras with fig purée; lobster medallions; marinated veal slices with a sauté of asparagus and morille mushrooms; Gewürztraminer sorbet.
Hôtel de Crillon, 10 Place de la Concorde (00 33 1 44 71 16 16).

La Tour d'Argent

An institution more than a restaurant, with an incomparable view over the Seine to Notre Dame. For those (Japanese and Americans) who can still afford Fr1,000 (£133) a head, the menu is rich and old-fashioned: three emperors' foie gras; Tour d'Argent duck (cooked in blood); crêpes Belle Époque. Has a fixed price lunch at Fr375 (£50). Lost its third Michelin star this year.
15-17 Quai de la Tourneille (00 33 1 43 54 23 31).

IN

L'Epi Dupin

The *Lebey Guide's* bistro of the year, serving three courses and cheese for Fr153 (£20). Down a side street near the Bon Marché store and rather cramped. Book at least a week ahead, more for weekends, in order to experience the tuna pissaladière — the weird stuffed apple, sliced potato and stem ginger starter — and the chestnut crêpe soufflé.
11 Rue Dupin (00 33 1 42 22 64 56).

Les Bookinistes

One of chef Guy Savoy's baby bistros, it is named after the little bookstalls opposite along the Seine. Modern decor, trendy lighting and superb menu for Fr160 (£21) at dinner. Camellions of ratatouille with coriander; fish with leek confit and artichoke purée. Only problem is too many tourists.
33 Quai des Grands-Augustins (00 33 1 43 25 45 94).

Shozaa

Opened this year, and specialises in fusion food — French products cooked Japanese-style. Run by Japanese distillers, with a French former model fronting the house, it offers consomme of warm foie gras, crunchy, lightly-sugared lamb, feed sake.
11 Rue de la Tremoille (00 33 1 47 23 37 32).

Campagne et Provence

A simple interior like a Provence dining room, a quiet place with loud food such as chickpea blinis with crab; peppers and anchovies; crispy sea snails with parmesan and tomato confit.
25 Quai de la Tourneille (00 33 1 43 54 05 17).

L'Appart

Haunt of fashion designers and models, this deliciously pretentious restaurant is supposed to be like a cosy-but-tasteful apartment. You can choose to dine in the book-lined study, the salon or the kitchen. The food is New-York-style French — old favourites trendied up like brandade de morue (baked salt cod) with a red pepper coulis.
9 Rue Colisée (00 33 1 53 75 16 34).

L'Arpège

Bagged its third Michelin star while everyone else was dropping them, this is a modern streamlined place. Main courses hit up to £30 apiece, but there is a fixed price lunch at Fr350 (£46). Sole stuffed with ginger; lamb with grapefruit zest and mint; stem ginger starter — and the chestnut crêpe soufflé.
84 Rue de Varenne (00 33 1 45 51 47 33).

In the pecking order

Feather report

IT WAS very agreeable the other morning to see the old-fashioned sight of some rooks and jackdaws feeding in a field with some cows. (Of course, it is the cow that is about to become the old-fashioned element.)

The rooks were walking about sedately, poking their beaks deep in the grass, while the jackdaws were moving more briskly, picking up insects that had been disturbed by the cows' feet.

The rooks were not quarrelling, but it is known that there is a "pecking order" in these rook flocks, which determines who gives way when two birds are after the same morsel. Large female rooks are particularly tough with smaller ones. Up to a point, this benefits the weaker bird as well as the stronger, because no time is wasted in squabbling.

In fact, there were probably very few female rooks in the field, because by now most of them are sitting on eggs. The males feed them on the nest, and there was a steady traffic of birds between the field and a rookery half a mile away. Actually all rooks look rather masculine, because they have loose feathers on their thighs like black pubic hairs.

I wandered over to the rookery, in a mixed wood, with some of the nests in oaks, some in Scots pine trees. These

PETER SPOON



The rook sedate

was an explosion of protesting cawing from the treetops at the sight of me, but the rooks are fairly safe up there. However, there was a mysterious report recently of rooks chasing off bats at dusk.

There have been some enormous rookeries: in 1945, 6,985 nests were counted in a rookery at Hutton Castle, Aberdeenshire. Currently, the British rook population seems to be steady at about 850,000 pairs.

As for the jackdaws, with their curious little grey eyes, they were still flying off from the field in couples. They have chosen their nest-sites, in holes in old trees or buildings, but they will not lay for another few weeks. At present, when they are not foraging, they just sit together in close, tender-looking pairs.

DERWENT MAY

What's about birds — listen for returning blackbirds singing in woods and gardens. Twitwits — lesser buzzards at Tyntehanger Pitt, Hertfordshire; lesser yellowlegs at Richmond Bank, Cheshire; sub-alpine warbler at Portland Bill, Dorset. Details from Birdline 0800 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute, cheap rate, 50p at other times.

IN THE MAGAZINE

Frances Bissell's recipes for bringing home the flavour of Paris
PAGE 79

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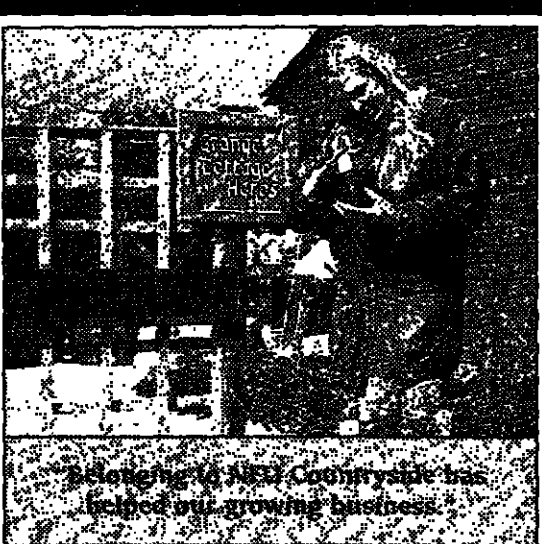
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NFU
COUNTRYSIDE

'Cooking is becoming a mimsy, neurotic, clinical business ... I want to make real food. Home-Made is my battle cry'

Iron maiden has changed my life

You have never seen a family as nervy as mine has been for the past six weeks. They jump whenever the phone rings, cower when the postman knocks, tremble at the sound of my car arriving. They go to the windows and peer anxiously for signs of upheaval. It is understandable. They recall only too well the day, eight years ago, when I announced to a stunned household that I intended to become a farmer. Now that is over, they fear what will come next.

So did I — until recently. I had heard a rumour in the parish that I am taking the cloth. So I shall confess.

I am taking up the cloth — the dishcloth. Also the pan, grater, mincer and whisk. Gone is the tweed and corduroy cladding. I have bought myself a crisp, white apron. I've had my fill of the great outdoors. I want to come inside and get warm; but not lose that heady sense of closeness to the sources of life in the raw.

The decision happened by accident in a shop near here which sells wood-burning stoves. In these unlikely surroundings Cupid raised his bow and I fell deeply in love with an iron maiden — a half a ton of

cast-iron vintage kitchen stove: coal-fired, black and adorable. Not a grand kitchen range of the kind Mrs Bridges used to curse, but smaller, more for a cottage than a country house.

On the left is what you might call the firebox, which is open-fronted to give a comforting view of the burning coals. Then there are bits that slide and deflect heat to either the hotplate or the oven.

The inside of the oven is hardly browned. I assumed from its fresh-from-the-factory gleam that the stove was a reproduction. "No," the shopkeeper said. "Just never been used."

It seems the stove had been put into a small cottage after the war for a newly married couple. The bride, however, took one look at it and declared: "That's going." It was boxed in as part of a false wall. Two decades later my treasure was rediscovered. She is a virginal piece and, in the business of what Mrs B would call

"household management", so am I. But I know what I like and this stove — rejected by a woman — is going to help a man to achieve it.

I have this vision that one day we shall all sit round it and play happy families. It will probably be late on a Sunday afternoon in mid-winter after we have stoked the stove to crisp the Yorkshire pudding, have eaten our roast beef lunch and flaked out in front of the embers. Around teatime, someone will remember the tin of home-made crumpets. A rake around the grate to revitalise the coals and then we shall toast our crumpets and baste them lavishly with our own strawberry jam. Fanciful? Not entirely. The flame of family life has flickered



PAUL HEINEY

somewhat in recent years and close observers notice that running parallel to the decline has been the erosion of the family meal. Now, you can blame that on the burger bar, the microwave or the frenzied needs of individuals confronted with more choices than they have ever had before. But you can also place some of the blame on the kitchen. As kitchens have become nothing more than the final stage on a production line of overprocessed food, or the scene of a bit of weekend showing off by trendy hobby cooks, they are increasingly desolate places. Is it any wonder that the cooking and carving of meat is in decline when the modern kitchen feels more like an

operating theatre? Cooking is becoming a mimsy, neurotic, clinical business. We have to think temperature, self-by-date, instructions and nutrition values. The day is not far off when the supermarkets will be offering us complimentary pairs of rubber gloves so that we avoid "unnecessary contact" with the food.

My kitchen will be different. The comforting presence of the stove will see to that. We shall eagerly spoon our plates of sago pudding until they are squeaky clean, then push our chairs back from the table and spend a few moments contemplating the flicker of the flames. Who knows, we might talk a little, too. We shall have no need of Muzak: the large black kettle will sing to us from the hob and the equally large black cat will purr.

As for the food, there are few cookery writers who come anywhere near ad-

ressing my needs. They seem to be driven by a desire to convince us that there is no difference between home and restaurant food. What is the point in that? I do not want to sit down at my own table and eat a Polenta, Oyster and Aubergine Mousse, any more than I need the Roux brothers to serve bacon, eggs and fried bread. We must restore home cooking to its rightful place at the pinnacle and not in the pedal bin of fashion.

And I mean cooking. I do not mean that flimsy sort of cooking where we are invited to take a measly "half a skinless chicken breast and five drops of lime juice". I want to take raw, primitive, unpasteurised things with mud on them, and feathers. I want to make real food. Home-Made is my battlecry. My mind is turning over the possibility of jugged hare and junket, military pudding, mulligatawny or madeira cake.

I dare say there will be muttering from the family, but you may wish to follow my efforts week by week. If only to cut them out and stick them in a book to avoid ever after. I fear this week's recipe seems to be for Family Crumble.

A blend of tastes to keep all the guests happy

FAST FOOD

Vegetarian and carnivorous bosses to dinner

Dinner for six, including two vegetarians

Your two bosses are coming to dinner. One boss and her husband are vegetarian; the other boss and the rest of the guests are committed carnivores. This quick menu, cooked entirely after work, flatters everyone.

Feta and mint salad

Roasted peppers stuffed with goats cheese or chicken

Apricot and amaretto pudding

WORK ORDER

Turn on oven to 190C/350F. Gas mark 4. Cut six red peppers in half through stems. De-seed. Put the pepper halves on a baking tray or oven-proof dish. Put two cherry tomatoes in each pepper. Put in oven and cook for 15 minutes.

■ Make apricot pudding

Pour a 600g (1lb 6oz) jar apricot compote or 800g (1lb 12oz) tinned apricots, drained, into a serving dish. Mix 500ml (18 fl oz) crème fraîche with 50g (2oz) sugar and 50ml (2 fl oz) sherry. Put on top of compote. Top with 100g (4oz) amaretto biscuits. Put in fridge.

■ Make salad

Roughly chop a handful of mint leaves and mix with 400g (14oz) prepared, mixed salad in a salad bowl. Crumble 400g (14oz) feta cheese into roughly 1cm cubes and put on the salad.

■ Finish red peppers

Cut 4 boned, skinned chicken breasts in half and 100g (4oz) goats cheese in four. Put a piece of chicken or cheese into the red peppers. Drizzle about a teaspoon of olive oil on each pepper. Season the chicken with salt and pepper and the cheese with just pepper. Put

Shopping list

Fruit and vegetables

large handful mint

6 leaves basil

400g (14oz) prepared mixed salad

1 lemon

6 red peppers

24 cherry tomatoes (approx 250g/9oz)

300g (11oz) trimmed sugar snap peas

Dairy

100g (4oz) goats cheese

400g (14oz) feta cheese

500ml crème fraîche

Meat

4 boned, skinned chicken breasts

Savoury goods

olive oil

500g (1lb 2oz) fresh tagliatelle

1 loaf French country bread

Sweet goods

600g jar apricot compote/800g tinned apricots

50g (2oz) caster sugar

100g (4oz) amaretto biscuits

Drink

70ml (2½ oz) sweet or medium sherry

3 bottles chardonnay

Lucky dip for fruit-lovers

JUST when you thought dips were naff, along comes the Dipping Strawberry, from (where else but) California. Actually Waitrose, which stocks this marvel, is very sober and serious and does not describe it as that on the pack. The store calls it an Extra Large Strawberry — and boy, it certainly is.

You can fit only six in a 225g punnet (at a cost of £2.49 or 41.5p a strawberry). As the Waitrose strawberry buyer explained to me: "It's a bit like the old fondue really. You can dip them in white or dark chocolate." (Each monster has a stalk so your dinner party guests won't get messy.)

"At the foot of Mount Shasta, in the sharp mountain sunlight, we and the earth are working on a miracle," burbles the accompanying brochure for the US market. Thanks are due not only to the "men and women who love the land and coax the best out of it" but "technology such as our exclusive Bug Vac which actually vacuums plants to help us grow healthier, cleaner, more beautiful, pest-free fruit". It is a doddle, they assure us, "to plunk berries into crème fraîche as a dessert".

For those of you who are now confused as to what it is socially acceptable to dip — or rather plunk — here are some basic ground rules. Celery and crisps — definitely out. Tortilla chips — a bit ho-hum, but just about acceptable if you make your own fresh salsa. Strawberries — OK, apparently. Toasted soldiers in eggs, fine (nursery food never goes out of style) but in the privacy of your own home please.

Ill bread

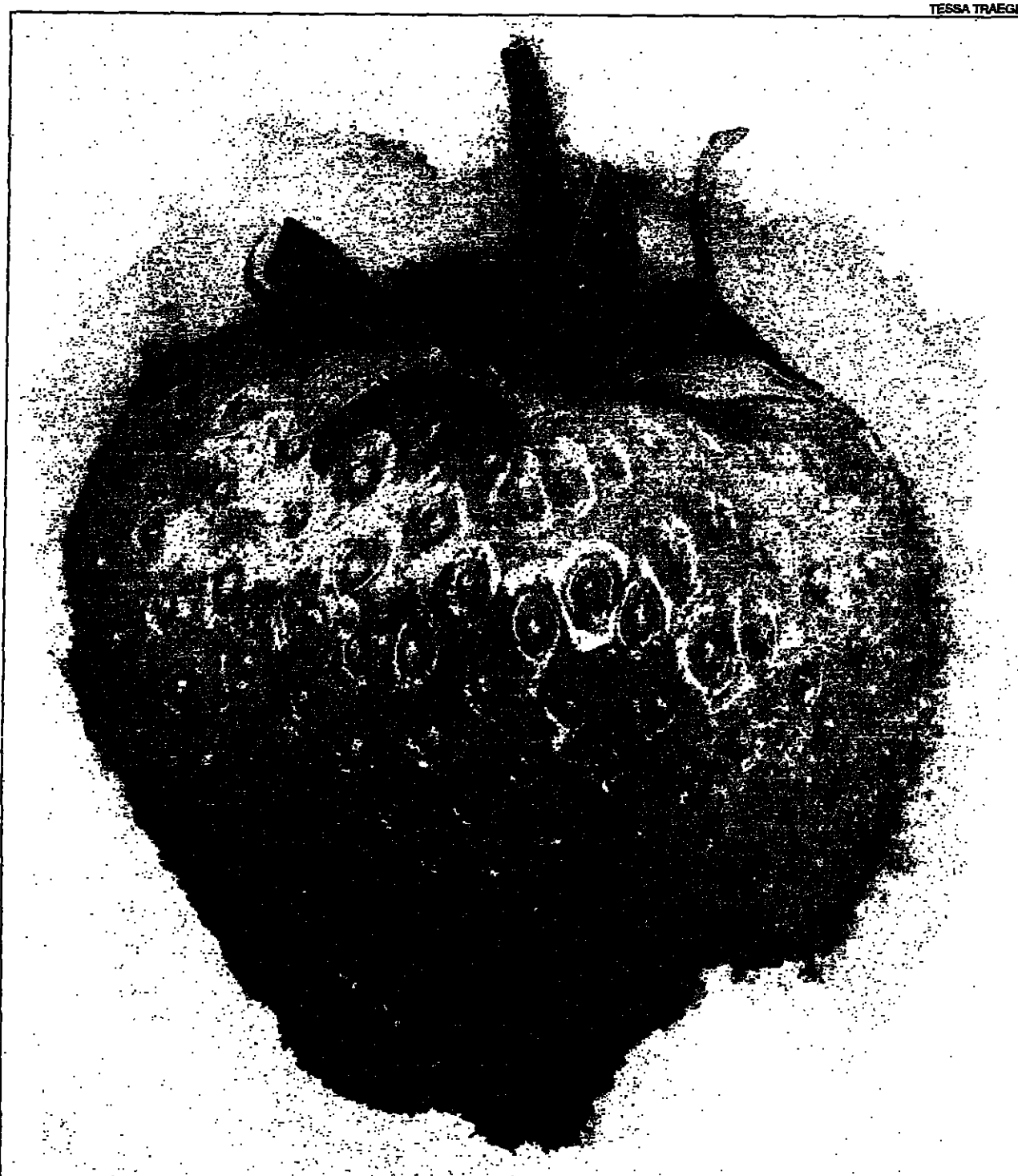
FOR BIG bakers suffering from the crisis in the bread industry, salvation is sitting on the shelves. It lies in the "speciality bread" market and in persuading us to buy bread to accompany a meal rather than just use it for toast and sandwiches. Bung in a few sun-dried tomatoes or olives and, instead of getting 99p a loaf, you can charge £1.09.

Even neater is the fact that these fancy breads are smaller than the average small (400g) loaf. (Exactly how small consumers do not have to be told. If a loaf is under 300g the manufacturers need not state the weight.)

In my experience, most of the new speciality breads are lousy value. Floyd's onion focaccia, for instance (part of the new Floyd on Bread range from British Bakeries), is described on the pack as an "authentic speciality bread" with "the flavour to transport you to the rugged Tuscan hills". In fact it is an appalling combination of under-cooked onion and pappy bread that no Italian would give house room to — it weighs 290g and costs £1.19.

If you want to remind yourself what bread really tastes like, head for the newly opened London branch of De Gustibus. Until recently, its breads were available only to residents of Thames, near Oxford. The sourdough weighs in at 1,100g which, at £2.50, is a better ratio of crumb to the pound than

DIGEST — THE GOSSIP ON FOOD



The Dipping Strawberry, we are told, is perfect for "plunking". Each monster comes with its stalk attached

supermarkets offer. Most of the range costs even less. De Gustibus is at 53 Blandford Street, London W1 (0171-486 6608) and at 9 Greyhound Walk, Thame (01844 214040).

Ventreche? Eh?

CONFUSION reigns in the culinary world as to the definition of ventreche — a sexy new ingredient that has popped up on the menu of Marco Pierre White's Criterion. Hesitating to arouse the great man's scorn by my ignorance of its correct pronunciation, I discover from his underling that it is not ham (as described on the menu) nor Italian (as I had assumed) but a superior kind of French bacon.

Eager to try some, I contacted the more superior charcuterie counters of London, ending up at the House of Albert Roux.

"Ow you spell zat?" asked the girl on the switchboard. "I geev you Roger, just a minute." Roger said they hadn't got any ventreche, but that basically it was the same as poitrine fumée, which they did stock. "Which part of France does it come from," I ask? "Well, actually, from Northern Italy," "Rubbish," says chef's suppliers Cutty Catering. "It's not the same at all. Ours comes from a small

farm in the Pyrenees, where they cure their own sides of pork and pepper them." Personally, I'd stick to bacon.

High tea

HIGHGROVE Breakfast Tea is one of 15 new food and household products with the Prince of Wales's imprint, including a range of teas from Fortnum & Mason, jams from Crabtree & Evelyn and

chocies from Charbonnel et Walker. Fortnum's says each product has been approved by HRH and that a peppermint tea was included at his request. Peppermint tea, according to my book of Chinese medicine, is good for counteracting stomach gas.

And avoid ...

THE prize for the most pointless new product of the week

has to go to Tesco's Vegetarian Ploughman's Pâté. The idea is that you don't have to go to all that tedious trouble of cutting yourself a slice of cheese, breaking off a stick of celery and digging out a spoonful of pickle — it's all mixed in. The result is unspeakable.

FIONA BECKETT

Win a year's groceries, page 10



HATTIE ELLIS

Chocolate Boxes

JOY MOORE's 1657 Chocolate House in Kendal, Cumbria, is the only chocolate house in England, Alex Wijeratna writes. Her drinking shop recreates the original 1657 chocolate house in Bishopsgate, London, chronicled by Samuel Pepys. In the 17th century, when chocolate was banned in papal lands and cocoa traders fled Europe for England, such houses sprang up in abundance. "The first chocolate houses in London traded in cocoa but later served liquid chocolate with sweet-tasting bread," says Mrs Moore. Courtiers from King Charles II's palace soon made sipping chocolate the height of chic.

Today every morsel within Mrs Moore's wooden-beamed, converted cottage — from 39 different chocolate drinks, 89 types of truffles and praline, to a glazed chocolate "Highwayman" gâteau — is English-made. She uses an old-fashioned whisking

machine to spin water through 68 per cent cocoa to create a cup of "Courtier's" Castlemead — foed milk chocolate with ten drops of liquid ginger (£1.20). Voilet-flavoured "Queen's Cottage" is one of her most popular drinks. "Many of our recipes are authentic to the 17th century so I never use French, Belgian or Swiss chocolate," she says. Mrs Moore serves 52 types of gateaux and petits gateaux. A slice of "Neil Gwynne" sponge cake, marinated in orange liqueur with fresh cream, topped with a gamache of milk chocolate, costs £1.55.

Besides tiny cakes (discs) and larger tablets of chocolate (five-ounce bars, £2.50), Mrs Moore sells 239 individual chocolates, which start at 36p. Her top-range 8lb chest of drawers costs £189.

● The 1657 Chocolate House, 54 Broadhouse Lane, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 9JX (01539 740702). Mon-Sat 9.30am-5pm.

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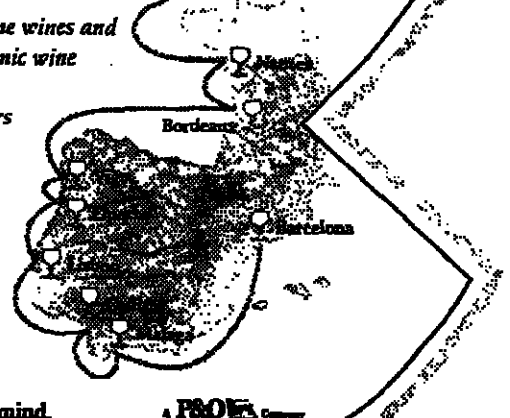
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Try two in a bed for double pleasure

Cross-breeding plants is easy and the results can be colourfully satisfying, says Stephen Anderton

I believe in arranged marriages for plants. Good things can be achieved by putting a beautiful couple in the same bed. If the union is blessed, the offspring will combine the finer attributes of each parent.

Of course, serious growers of roses and fruit will always stay with controlled artificial insemination, applying the pollen of one parent by hand to another to produce the required length of bud, disease resistance or keeping qualities.

But there are many plants which will cross-breed with charming results just by being planted side by side in a bed. If they are fast breeders and can produce the next generation in a year or two, it matters less if the breeding is not accurately controlled.

Poppies are easy to cross-breed. Part of my vegetable patch is given over to the annual opium poppy, *Papaver somniferum*. The plants are mostly doubles, but nevertheless fertile, and splendidly promiscuous. From a forest of pale, grey-green succulent stems come masses of heavily double flowers of scarlet, crimson and darkest purple. They cut beautifully for indoors, but last only briefly.

The time to cut poppies is just as the drooping, fat, globular buds show a streak of colour along the side. Cut them into a vase fast, or they will wilt. If the stems are long, first dip the bottom 2in-3in of

the stem into a pan of boiling water for a few seconds.

Poppies will last for a couple of days when in water, the heads gradually pulling upright, the green halves of the buds splitting open to reveal a confusion of crumpled taffeta-like material — rather like a snake swallowing a flamenco dancer while.

An open flower will last perhaps a day, after which it drops its petals in a flurry of scarlet or purple. Decadence was never so sweet.

A couple of years ago I was given the pale-pink double form, which has joined the others in the opium den. The pink has crossed with the purples to produce some dusky plum colours in single and double form. They look wonderful: just like a softer version of that invasively fashionable, dusky-plum form of oriental poppy, *Papaver orientalis* 'Patty's Plum'.

From such a hotbed of colour, progeny is never entirely predictable, but it is safe to assume that you will get a degree of continuity.

I tag the most promising flower heads and save the seed for making discrete colonies of colour in the main part of the garden. If the colours are mixed it is easy to pull out the misfits from a single-colour colony.

In the vegetable patch, there is no hope of ever controlling the orgy of miscegenation, but all the spectrum of colours



The annual opium poppy, *Papaver somniferum*, is splendidly promiscuous, producing masses of heavily double flowers

reappears in each succeeding annual crop.

Aquilegias are ideal for mixed marriages. The double pink-and-white 'Nora Barlow' is common and comes true from seed to a high percentage. (If you want the true Nora, beware of buying her

out of flower, because so often she is sold from seed-grown plants which may not come true.) But put Nora with some randy old-fashioned aquilegias and she really lets her hair down. Hybrid progeny seed themselves all around, but still to a large degree with Nora's

double flower. Unlike the large-spurred McKana hybrid aquilegias, the 'Nora Barlow' types are not flamboyant in flower, but they make up in charm and in quantity.

There are few things so much fun for gardeners as seeing a whole mixed litter of little Barlows — doubles, semi-doubles and singles of pink, mauve, white and purple, presided over by their pink-and-white mother, Nora. They look good with the dark purple foliage of *Cotinus coggygria* 'Royal Purple' of the purple form of common sage, *Salvia officinalis* 'Purpurascens'.

The 'Pacific Coast' irises are another group of crossbreeders, so promiscuous that botanists despair of the true species surviving in the wild. In gardens they show no more restraint and will hybridise with delightful results. The late Ivor Knowles, of Sevenoaks, Kent, named several varieties, such as 'Lavender Lil' and 'Blue Ballerina', which he had produced by planting promising varieties or *Iris innotinata* and *douglasiana* side by side, growing on the offspring, and selecting and naming the best.

Good gardening has to be ruthlessly elitist. 'Pacific Coast' irises take a few years to flower from seed and, while

most of the progeny from an arranged marriage may be pleasant, it is necessary to smother at birth those plants which are less than promising, lest the garden fill up with mediocrities.

Anyone breeding plants — especially longer-lived plants — however casually, must be prepared to select mercilessly if any sort of consistency and quality is to be achieved.

A few years ago I picked up some seed from *Paeonia delavayi*, the red-flowered, delicate-scented tree peony. Five years later I know the resulting shrubs to be hybrids, crosses between red *P. delavayi* and the yellow *P. delavayi* var. *ludlowii*. The numerous flowers are a pleasant muddle of shades between yellow and orange, and perhaps 2in across.

I was pleased with these until I saw a specimen of what must be the same hybrid parentage in a garden in Nottinghamshire, with flowers 3in-4in across, which were more in scale with the dramatic foliage of the plant, and perfumed.

I now realise that mine should go on the bonfire. It is important to be more selective with a permanent, long-term shrub than with easy-come, easy-go poppies. Permanent respect has to be harder earned.

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q My eucryphia tree is about 12ft high. This winter frost, and possibly salt spray, have browned most of the top and middle leaves. The lower leaves under a wall still have some green on them. Should I leave it alone or cut it down to the green part? — Mrs J.M. Currie, Milngavie, Glasgow.

A Be patient and wait until the tree is growing properly to decide what is alive or dead. You can prune the dead away in May, or even June. It will grow upwards again but not so neatly. You should expect damage to evergreen eucryphas in a bad winter. The deciduous species, *E. glutinosa*, is hardier, but none of these South American summer-flowering trees is totally hardy.

Q Low-growing conifers are starting to spread out over a path alongside my house. How do I prune them and when? — G. Davies, Winchester, Hampshire.

A Little and often is the best recipe. Reduce the spread by thinning back the branches, trying not to leave any stumps or brown, inner foliage showing. You can do this at almost any time of year, and cuts of less than half an inch in diameter will do no harm. Large stumps of branches will not sprout again. The more prostrate junipers are easier to keep in place with regular cutting back than those with low, but arching, growth, such as *Juniperus x media* 'Pfitzeriana'. Their grace is destroyed by taking off the arching tips.

Q Two years ago I planted two apple trees which fruited well, but each year squirrels have eaten the entire crop, even biting through plastic netting to get to them. What can I do to stop this? — R. Holyoak, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

A Nothing short of a fine metal cage will stop a determined grey squirrel. But not all squirrels are partial to apples; it may be that the next generation will leave them alone. Control on a single garden is almost impossible, but a group of neighbours can make an effort to cull the squirrels by trapping. (Red squirrels are a protected species, and not a problem.) Fruit trees planted close to houses and away from woodland trees are less likely by squirrels.

Q I have a lovely display of yellow aconites, under shrubs and in all the borders. But where they reach the edge of the

borders, they seed into the gravel paths and look weedy. What can I do to stop this? — Mrs H. Robinson, Ripon, Yorkshire.

A Established aconites are best dug out of paths and replanted or given away. If their presence offends you, or is spoiling a formal scheme, use a residual herbicide on the paths; it should soak into the first 1in-2in of gravel and kill the seedlings as they emerge. Look for something containing diuron or dichlobenil.

Q I have a *Daphne odora* 'Aureomarginata' grown from a cutting. It is in a large pot, flowers profusely in spring and has a superb perfume — but looks like a feather duster on a leafless 2ft stem. When the tip was pinched out, it still only branched at the end. Can I cut it back hard, and why does it lose its lower leaves? — Mrs F.D. Neale, Poole, Dorset.

A I have never seen this plant densely covered with foliage; it is always a fairly scrambling, open affair. Usually plants are bought having been pinched once as a cutting, and subsequent frost damage or the odd irresistibly picked buttonhole flower causing further pinching contrive to make a loose dome rather than a feather duster. *Daphnes* hate hard pruning, so you are stuck with the pompon until it develops a bigger head. I



Daphne odora 'Aureomarginata'

would plant it out in a sheltered sunny corner. If anyone has this plant as a dense, well-covered bush, and knows why it is so, I would like to hear about it. If density is all, try *Daphne retusa* or *tangutica*.

Q Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

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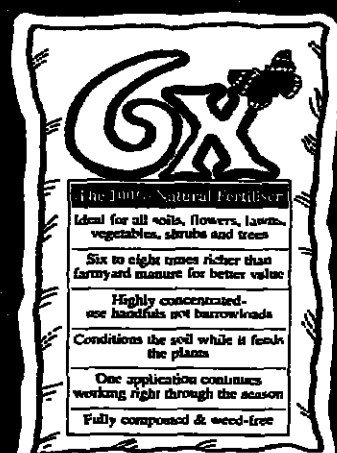
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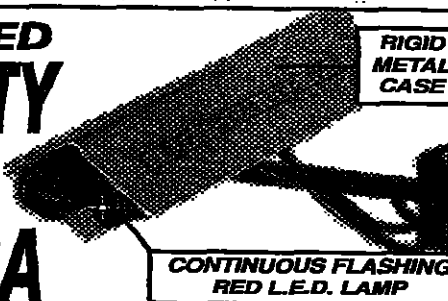
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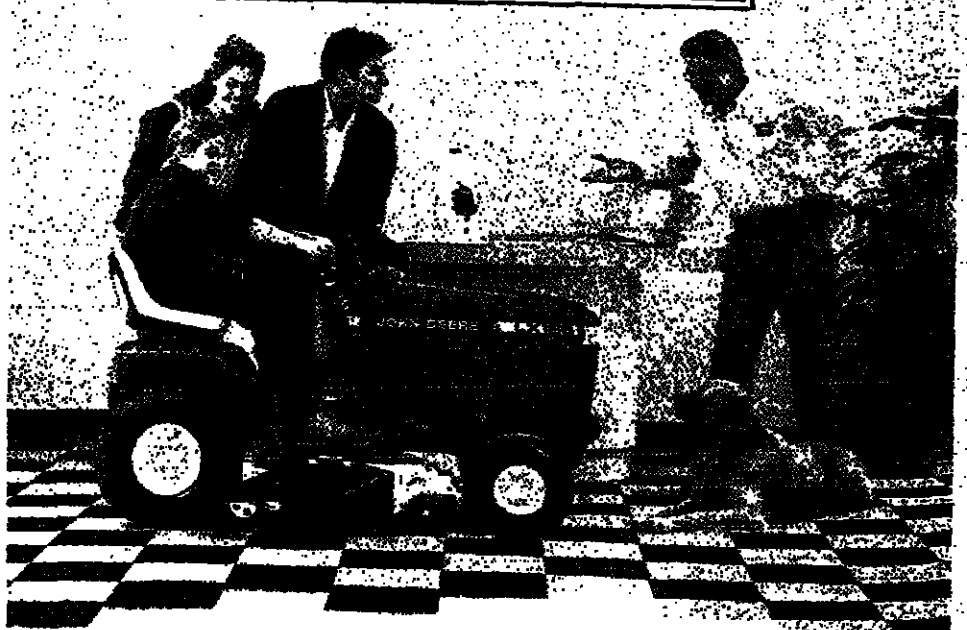
WEEKEND TIPS

- Start runner bean plants in 3in pots under glass, for planting out next month.
- Sow outdoor leeks, peas, broad beans, cauliflowers, brussels sprouts, onions, turnips, beetroot and parsnips.
- Cut down the old stems of hardy fuchsias, and feed.
- Sow courgettes, cucumbers and outdoor tomatoes under glass.
- Complete pruning of evergreens, including any hard pruning of holly and yew hedges.
- Lay new lawns, with turf or seed. Repair damaged lawn edges and redefine edges with a half-moon cutter.
- Spray fruit trees as necessary for scab and aphids, avoiding spraying when the flowers are open.
- Sow hardy annuals, such as calendula, nasturtium and cornflowers, where they are intended to flower.



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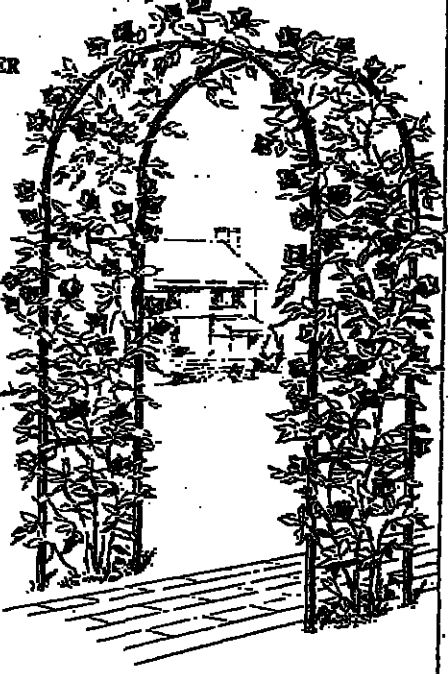
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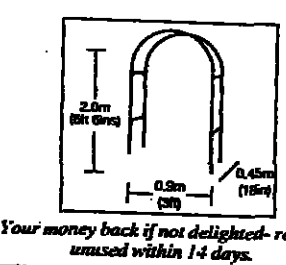
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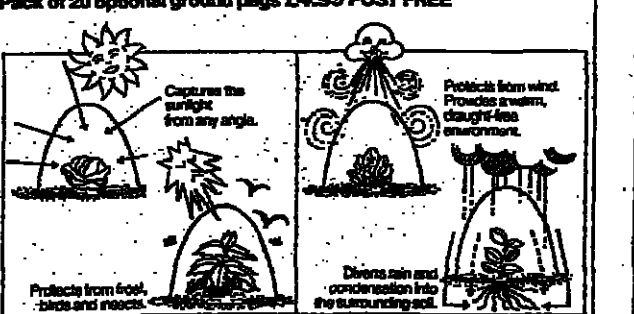
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A development of the old school

Desks are replaced
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transformed

There wasn't much to see when Crena Watson, a fashion photographer, walked through the door of her new flat: no walls, kitchen, bathroom or central heating, just 4,000 sq ft of space in south London.

Inside, apart from the size and shape of the windows, there was little to suggest that she now owned the former gymnasium and two classrooms of Lavender Hill School in Wandsworth. She bought the first floor flat a year ago and spent three months converting it into a 25ft by 17ft living room, a huge bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and a studio with a mezzanine floor for an office and darkroom. At one time there were 16 builders there.

Redundant schools can make homes of character, Rob Dark, an architect and conservationist, says: "Old schools are usually well built. The brickwork, joinery and decorative features are of a high standard and you can create an attractive environment and get more space for your money than in many modern houses."

Mr Dark also points out that schools are generally well located within the local community, close to shops and stations.

Lavender Hill was one of 500 schools built in the capital by the London School Board between 1870 and 1904. About 300 survive. Local school boards, which were found all over the country, were elected by ratepayers to provide elementary education for the poor.

English Heritage, mindful that architectural history could be lost by closure and demolition, is researching the history of board



Crena Watson in the living room of the flat she created from a shell. The windows are the only due to the building's former life as a school.

schools with a view to adding to the 43 listed nationwide. "Most are still in educational use. Listing can't keep them open but it can ensure that any future conversion is done sympathetically," says Elaine Harwood, an English Heritage historian.

Lavender Hill School — which is not listed — ended its days in the hands of the Inner London Education Authority as offices and a centre for adult education. Wandsworth council, which took it over in 1990, sold the 1.5 acre site two years ago to the developers Sapcote for £1,306,000. Sapcote turned the school, renamed The Village, into 30 flats and sold them for £145,000-£400,000 each. A

book on school developments, *Beacons of Learning*, published last year by SAVE Britain's Heritage, describes The Village as a "shining example of enlightened entrepreneurial conservation".

"What people are buying is a shell," says Ashley Nicholson, a director of Sapcote. "It's up to the occupier to do what they like with the place. Every one is different." He estimates that conversion costs would be between £20,000 and £50,000.

Rob and Barbara Hunter fell in love with a shell of a building too, only theirs was a village school in Cumbria built in 1874. The school, with one high ceilinged room for juniors and one for infants, was closed in 1988 because of falling numbers.

The couple put in a successful sealed bid to Cumbria County Council. "The planning authorities in the Lake District National Park stipulated that the outside

had to stay as near as possible to the original," Mr Hunter says.

Inside, the school has been transformed, although with deference to its character and age. Eighteen months of work produced five bedrooms, a kitchen, a sitting room on a mezzanine floor and a dining room. "We wanted to keep the feeling of space. There's no point in buying a building like this and splitting it into small boxes," says Mrs Hunter, who did not want to disclose the cost.

The couple's advice to anyone considering such a conversion is to choose an architect who is sensitive to the building. Emma Phillips at SAVE agrees: "If the building is converted, then carrying out a good scheme which retains the overall feeling is of prime importance. You should work with an architect who's had experience of historic buildings." She estimates conversion costs of village schools to be £50,000 upwards.

Over the past 12 years 350 small rural schools have closed in England. Other educational or community uses can often be found for them so by no means all end up as homes.

The organisation ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) is in the middle of piloting a scheme

in five counties (Buckinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Essex and Cheshire) to encourage greater community use of small schools.

A number of converted schools are at present on the market. The Old School House at Rushford, near Thetford in Norfolk is for sale at £195,000 (Savills, 01473 226191) and there is the Old National School at Sampford Spiney, Yelverton, Devon (Strutt Parker, 01392 215631). Offers over £150,000.

Meanwhile Sapcote has just started the conversion of Latchmere Primary School in Wandsworth, for which the company paid £2.25 million. The buildings will be converted into 25 shell flats and eight houses, and 16 new, fully-fitted houses will be built in the grounds. Prices will range from £100,000 to £400,000.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

● *Beacons of Learning* is available from SAVE Britain's Heritage, 65 Battersea High Street, London SW11 3JL. £11.50 (071) 228 3356.

● *ACRE, Somerset Court*, Somerset Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL3 7TW (01285 653471).

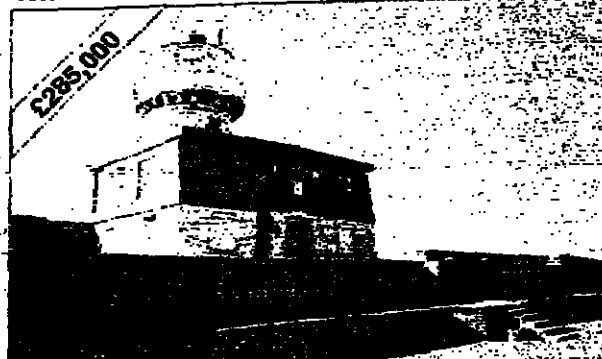
● *Sapcote*: 6 Tideway Yard, 125 Mortlake High Street, London SW14 8SN (sales line, 24 hours, 0171 457 3378).

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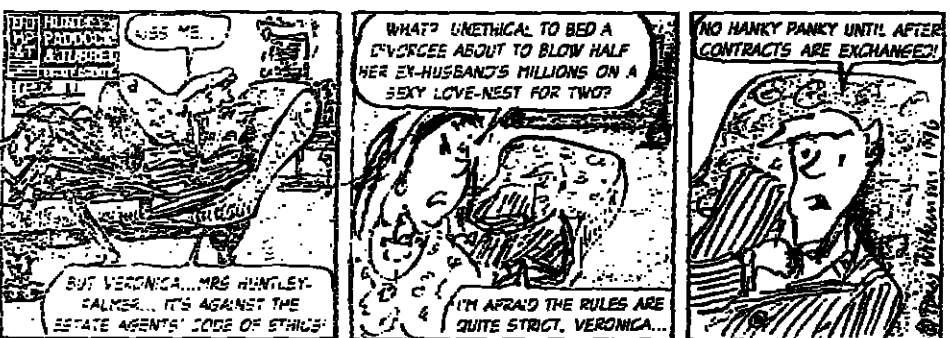


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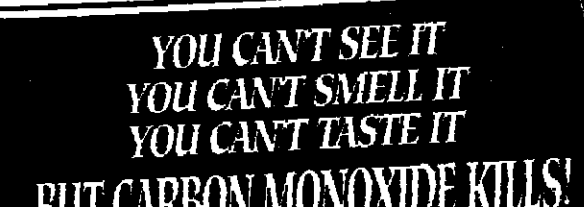
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Discreet alarm of the bourgeoisie

Elizabeth Buchan discovers that the Aga-saga for the 1990s is sending out an SOS from the shires, where middle-class marriages and morality melt down in middle age

ALONG with tart's knicker blinds, designer water and the personal computer, the Aga-saga arrived in the late 1980s. With its distinctive pastel jacket and rejection of glitz, it ousted the sex 'n' shopping novel, and readers flocked to read them. The swing of fashion? Yes, in part. But there is, perhaps, more cooking in the Aga-saga than a 1990s espousal of domestic values insofar as it fictionalises profound insecurities and crises of confidence. For this is a world where adultery is commonplace and a sustaining morality is in shreds. In short, the message from the shires is one of middle-class angst.

So it is understandable that the plots of these three novels are

virtually indistinguishable. Two of them plunge the reader into the queasy eruptions of middle-aged marriages that have been jogging along for too long. The third transplants an infant marriage from the city to the village, which, with its cast of old ladies, busybodies and faded squirearchy, is almost a parody but is redeemed by sharp and perspicacious writing.

A *Summer Affair* opens with Nicholas scraping dandruff off his scalp, an example of Swifidian detail that the author often slips in. He is

■ **A SUMMER AFFAIR**
By Amanda Brookfield
Sceptre, £16.99
■ **SEVEN FOR A SECRET**
By Judy Asley
Black Swan, £5.99
■ **THE TORTOISE SHELL**
By Fanny Frewen
Century, £15.99

forty-something, and his ambitions to write are going nowhere, while his energetic wife, Kate, is embarking on a career as a cookery writer, his children are growing up and

Nicholas is falling prey to jealousy and suspicion. Before long, he is behaving very badly. Amanda Brookfield's tussle with the complexities of a marriage has moments of insight and black humour but it is marred by hurried and cluttered prose.

The heroine of *Seven for a Secret* is not a cook but a gifted gardener, but the same situation is apparent. Married for 25 years to the mostly absent Tom, an airline pilot, Heather is horrified to discover that her first husband, a rakish Scottish

laird with whom she eloped out of school, has arrived in the village to film his bestselling novel. Money is not a problem, but having enough does not let you off sharp, sometimes cruel lessons and unwelcome reminders of the past. Judy Asley plots her plot along at a goodish pace, but the deeper feelings capable of transforming a romp into something more significant only emerge in the last pages.

Slighter and quirkier, *The Tortoise Shell* has the texture and flavour of the lovingly distilled,

whose prose has been allowed onto the page only after a proper gestation.

A genius at advertising copy, Henry Brack has married handsome, successful, nice Jack, who immediately sets about taming his wife by corralling her at Mulberry Cottage in his home village of Tiddington. Surprisingly, Henry gives in, abandons her smart metropolitan existence and finds herself transplanted into a community of women who operate by their own rules. Will Henry survive the role of stay-at-home wife? Ninety-five-year-old Mrs Boxendale has her own thoughts on the matter. Sharp as a knife and yet deeply compassionate, Fanny Frewen is an original spirit.

SHORT STORIES

Moody and the blues

■ **THE RING OF BRIGHTEST ANGELS AROUND HEAVEN**
By Rick Moody

Abacus, £9.99
RICK MOODY'S short takes are mood pieces. He paints word pictures of the everyday American nightmare, somewhere between Hopper and Rauschenberg. These shards of inconsequential living are nicely constructed, elegantly and wilyly written. Lots of brand names and name dropping. In the long title story, the underbelly of a seedy New York is investigated through a hypnotic description of surfaces. A clever chap, Moody, worth keeping an eye on.

■ **THE CUB-HUNTING SEASON**
By Steve Ferris

Vintage, £8.99
THIS first collection is a bit like a surfeit of ballet, an art form that brings me out in spots. Characters, mainly homosexual, metamorphose into zoo animals, or butterflies, or anything to escape difficult humanity. The selfishness of the characters, to a man, is awesome. The writing is accomplished enough — the menace of Genet tagged to the surreal baroque of Angela Carter — but lacks either's originality of vision.

■ **LEAVE TO STAY**
Edited by Joan Riley and Brian Wood

Virago, £7.99
BRIAN WOOD is a white New Zealander. Joan Riley is a black Jamaican, and they collect stories and poems by migrants in Britain and America. Here are the fears and excitement of arriving in new places as well as the day-to-day problems of living in foreign parts. The writing is as varied as are the nationalities of the contributors. What is not particularly remarked upon is the extent to which "foreigners" enhance the quality of life in their new homes.

■ **SCOTTISH GHOST STORIES**
By James Robertson

Warner, £4.99
MANY of these retellings are derived from Hugh Miller's essential 1835 compilation. James Robertson's versions have all been "researched". He has visited the sites of his hauntings as if this kind of documentation makes the spooky nudgings of the imagination somehow more credible. Familiar stories, such as those of the 17th-century wizard, Major Weir, and the Monster of Glamis, are included as well as little known hauntings up to the present.

GILES GORDON

Neither Romanov, nor an empress

ALMOST 78 years after a squad of half-drunken local Bolsheviks burst into the basement of the Ipatiev House in Ekaterinburg and opened fire indiscriminately on Tsar Nicholas II, his family and servants, scientists at the Home Office Forensic Laboratory this month finally resolved one of the most emotionally charged and politically contentious cases of regicide. Genetic tests have proved beyond doubt that the bones first dug up in secrecy in a muddy wood in 1979 are indeed those of the slain emperor.

The long mystery was solved by DNA matching. If the technique had been available 50 years ago, it would have unmasked one of history's most famous imposters, cut short one of the longest and costliest civil suits German courts have ever heard and avoided years of feuding between more than 40 surviving members of the quarrelsome Romanov family. For

■ **THE QUEST FOR ANASTASIA**
By John Klier

Smith Gryphon, £8.99



Anastasia: murder victim

Anna Anderson, the mysterious woman pulled from a Berlin canal who intrigued and infuriated the world with her claim that she was Anastasia, the Tsar's only surviving daughter, was a fraud. Paranoid, chronically ill, obstinate and by turns reclusive

or self-seeking, she lived a bizarre half-life in courts, sanatoriums, mental asylums and the dilapidated castles of deracinated German and Russian aristocrats, only to die in squalor in America. She survived tuberculosis, the intrusions of prying journalists and the ferocious opposition of the Tsar's nearest relatives as well as the enmity of Lord Mountbatten, who spent huge sums opposing Anderson's claims.

The double mystery is intriguingly unravelled by John Klier. A detective, he has pieced together the latest evidence and writes a compelling, fast-moving account. The Tsar's final hours are grippingly related; but the list of all the Romanovs who befriended Anastasia gets as tedious as the woman herself evidently was. The book is as satisfying as the historic conclusion: the frauds are unmasked, the murdered Tsar finds final rest.

MICHAEL BINYON



Last generation? Statistics on the tiger population are unreliable and the battle to save them may already be lost

BOOK NEWS: Hats off to Larry; diplomatic impunity

DEREK GRANGER, at work on an authorised biography of Laurence Olivier, invites any Times readers with letters from the actor or recollections of his life and career to write to him at 82 Palace Gardens Terrace, London W8 4RS (fax 0171-229 3060). "All original correspondence and documents will be treated with the greatest care and returned as soon as possible after being copied," he says.

● **DOUBTLESS** anticipating increased leisure time and a life in the Lords, former Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has signed a two-book deal with Little, Brown. The first is an as-yet-untilled political thriller and the second a

Olivier papers sought

television tie-in, *Diplomacy in the 20th Century*, which spans the years from 1914 to the Gulf War. Will Hurd take a critical view of the quality of today's diplomacy? "It will be very Douglas Hurd — very diplomatic," says his publisher.

● **NICHOLAS EVANS'S** *The Horse Whisperer* has been shortlisted for the Romantic Novel of the Year Award to be announced at London's Café

Royal on April 24, with P.D. James as the guest of honour. Also on the shortlist are *The Red Pavilion* by Jean Chapman, *To Lie with Lions* (Dorothy Dunnett), *Unforgettable* (William Gill), *Misselthwaite* (Susan Moody), *Coming Home* (Rosamund Pilcher) and *Casting Off* (Libby Purves).

● **ACTRESS** Julie Walters is at work on a novel, also bought by Little, Brown. Unsurprisingly, the star of *Educating Rita* and *Buster* draws her inspiration from the thespian world: "It is about two actresses and will be slightly autobiographical, with laughter and tears, but rather more laughter," we are promised.

OBSESSION comes in many guises: sex, power, drugs, gambling. For Richard Ives, an adventurer and wildlife tour-leader, it is none of these. His passion is the tiger.

Possessed by the extraordinary charisma of the world's most formidable carnivore, he vows to confront the tiger face to face. So begins his Asian odyssey, an arduous journey from Chitwan in Nepal to the tiger's last strongholds in the heart of Mother India. Here, swaying through the jungle on elephant-back, he hears its deep, guttural groan in the mist of Dudhwa. But he has come too late.

At Ranthambor national park in Rajasthan, a huge male tiger known as Genghis used to prowl the Rajput ruins and catch deer by chasing them into the park's lush-studded lakes. Now, along

Tiger, tiger, burning dim

■ **OF TIGERS AND MEN**
By Richard Ives
Mainstream, £14.99

with countless others, Genghis has gone, his bones ground up to make tiger wine. Along the way Ives encounters other tiger fanatics. Men such as "Billy" Arjan Singh, who became hooked on tigers as a child after reading Jim Corbett's classic *Maneaters of Kumaon*. Singh has spent most of his life hand-raising and releasing tigers and leopards into the wild at Tiger Haven, his home on the edge

of Dudhwa national park. Now, like all the tiger men, he feels disillusioned and betrayed by the way in which Operation Tiger, the international rescue attempt to save India's great cats from extinction, has been allowed to run into the sands.

Official reports reckon there are still between 3,000 and 4,000 tigers in India. The tiger men believe these figures are wildly optimistic. The true figure may be fewer than 700. In Indonesia, where truth is an unknown continent, the government has simply lied

about its tigers. There are supposed to be at least 400, but no more than a few dozen survive.

The same is true of Thailand, where the tigers of Khao Yai, one of the country's wildlife showplaces, have been poached by people working inside the park, who sell the carcasses to a Bangkok restaurant specialising in exotic meats.

Ives writes with messianic fervour, but his book is bitter medicine, with no saccharine message of hope to coat the pill. He has journeyed into the future, only to discover that the tiger is leaving us. One day soon, he predicts, the last wild tiger will be born. For a few years more its roar will echo in the night. Then the forests will fall silent for ever.

BRIAN JACKMAN

All roads lead to CD-Rom

DORLING KINDERSLEY has been making a name for itself — and some tidy profits — in the expanding CD-Rom market. Now, with neat symmetry, it has reverted to print to explain how the world of multimedia works.

Beautifully and comprehensively illustrated, *Multimedia* covers the past, present and future of the whole field, from monitors to modems, from 3D games to the World Wide Web. The explanatory text is clear, concise, intelligent and, most

■ **MULTIMEDIA:**
The Complete Guide
Dorling Kindersley, £19.99

importantly, does not talk down to us adults as we struggle to catch up with the technology the young take for granted.

And even if some of it goes over your head, you should pick up enough of the jargon to enable you to talk the same language as your children, or at the very least to be able to call the bluff of the

"expert" salesmen at your local computer superstore.

There is a splendid section on the future of computer technology — electronic newspapers, automated homes and so on — that will seem impossibly quaint in a few years' time. If you think that all of this technology will eventually drive you mad, don't worry. In the future, when you talk to the walls, the walls will talk back.

PETER INGHAM

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The Times is going to take at least part of the pain out of shopping, by offering you the chance to win a £50 food voucher every week for a year. Keen pricing is the hallmark of supermarkets. Even so, when you get to the checkout the total often comes as a shock. So a prize of £2,600 over the year is an unbeatable bargain.

You can choose to exchange your vouchers to help towards your food bill at any one of the following supermarkets: Asda, Budgen, Co-op, Iceland, Marks & Spencer, Morrison, Safeway, Sainsbury's, Somerfield, Tesco and Waitrose.

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Who is The Times wine writer?

- a) Jilly Gooden
b) Jancis Robinson
c) Jane MacQuilty

Lines are open until midnight on Monday, April 15, 1996. The first correct entry chosen at random will win the £2,600 worth of shopping vouchers. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

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TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Malcolm Bradbury on John Updike's magisterial new novel, *In The Beauty of the Lilies*; Michael Sissons on Sebastian Faulks's *The Fatal Englishman*; Mark Ridley on Richard Dawkins's *Climbing Mount Improbable*

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK				
		Last week	No. weeks	
1	KEN HOM'S HOT WOK BOOK Ken Hom (BBC)	£16.99	1	7
2	UNRULY QUEEN Flora Fraser (Macmillan)	£20	4	2
3	THE DEBT TO PLEASURE John Lanchester (Picador)	£12.99	0	1
4	FIRST KING OF SHANNARA Terry Brooks (Legend)	£12.99	5	3
5	PRIMARY COLORS Anonymous (Chatto & Windus)	£15.99	2	6
6	THE RETURN William Sattner (PocketBooks)	£9.99	0	1
7	MICHELIN FRANCE (Michelin)	£14.50	0	1
8	HITLER'S WILLING EXECUTIONERS D. J. Goldhamer (Little, Brown)	£20	0	1
9	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE Daniel Goleman (Bloomsbury)	£16.99	3	12
10	THE JESUS PAPYRUS C. P. Thiede & M. D'Ancona (Weidenfeld)	£16.99	0	1
PAPERBACK				
1	SOPHIE'S WORLD Jostein Gaarder (Phoenix)	£4.99	1	5
2	TRANSPIRING IRVINE Welsh (Minerva)	£6.99	3	32
3	GREEN MILE: TWO DEAD GIRLS Stephen King (Penguin)	£1.99	0	1
4	BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM Kate Atkinson (Black Swan)	£5.99	2	12
5	OUR GAME John le Carré (Coronet)	£5.99	4	4
6	ORIGINAL SIN P. D. James (Penguin)	£5.99	5	4
7	HEMINGWAY'S CHAIR Michael Palin (Mandarin)	£5.99	0	1
8	ACID HOUSE Irvine Welsh (Vintage)	£5.99	7	21
9	THE RAINMAKER John Grisham (Arrow)	£5.99	6	10
10	SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS David Guterson (Bloomsbury)	£5.99	8	29
11	THE BLACK ALBUM Hamid Karshahi (Faber & Faber)	£5.99	0	1
12	MARABOU STORK NIGHTMARES Irvine Welsh (Vintage)	£5.99	12	9
13	MOO Jane Smiley (Flamingo)	£6.99	10	2
14	HEART SONGS E. Annie Proulx (Fourth Estate)	£6.99	17	4
15	THE STATE WE'RE IN Will Hutton (Vintage)	£7.99	9	13
16	A RUTHLESS NEED Catherine Cookson (Corgi)	£5.99	14	4
17	A CELESTINE PROPHECY James Redfield (Bantam)	£7.99	19	18
18	FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS Graham Hancock (Mandarin)	£6.99	13	7
19	REGENERATION Pat Barker (Penguin)	£6.99	20	20
20	SENSE AND SENSIBILITY Jane Austen (Bloomsbury)	£5.99	0	1

Any book from this list can be ordered from Dillons Mail Order Tel: 0171 636 1577 Fax: 0171 560 7680 DILLONS

TEENAGE FICTION

Friendly bombs

PITY the authors who write for older children. Apart from keeping up with the trends, they have only a few years to capture an audience. After that, readers move on. "Sadly outgrown," as they used to say in the *Horse & Hound* pony advertisements.

Terry Pratchett, who "writes for anyone old enough to understand", is the witty exception. *Johnny and the Bomb* (Doubleday, £12.99) is his third novel about Johnny Maxwell, the 12-year-old (going on 17) whose strange adventures keep teenagers on the tips of their toes. Here, in company with three mates, plus Kirsty (a sharp-tongued version of the token female), he goes back in time to the Second World War. It is May 1941 and a bomb is about to fall on rural Blackbury, enabling Johnny to remark, "I can remember when it was all buildings". Despite the surface simplicity of Pratchett's language, readers of 12 plus are in for a demanding read.

Give Robert Westall's *Falling into Glory* (Mammoth, £4.99) to a 14 or 15-year-old and do not expect to see it

again until her (or his) entire class has read it — and reread it, with the tears streaming down their cheeks. First published in 1993, it is the story of how Robbie, the school's bright boy and rugby hero, falls in love with his teacher, the entrancing Miss Harris. By 16 or 17, I am told, you may have got all you can out of it. This hothouse of a book set in a period of postwar innocence can be relied on to have a knock-out effect on teenage emotions for generations.

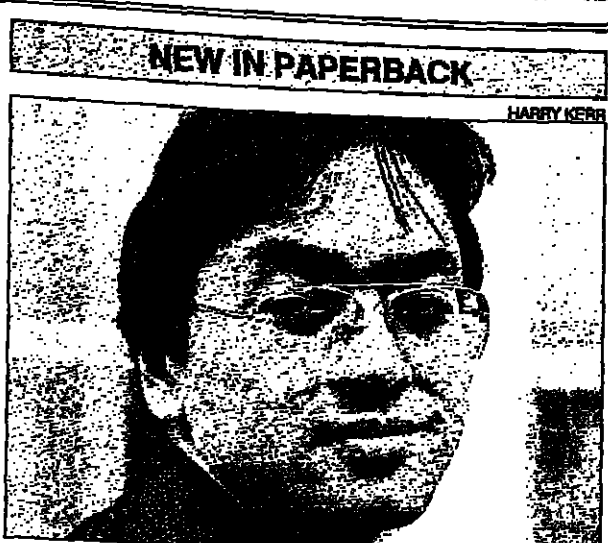
Feelings of guilt and anger which can follow a death are explored in *The Shadow of August* by Sue Welford (OUP, £5.99), but mostly it is a gripping mystery. After her mother's death, 17-year-old Mattie discovers that a lot of things she had been told about her childhood were false. Unravelling her past is painful, but inheriting a house in Cornwall can only be romantic. An imagination stretcher for 14 to 16-year-olds, the novel stops when Mattie has unearthed all the secrets, and we long to know her reactions.

MAUREEN OWEN

BOOKS

How Denis fits the Bill

Denis Thatcher is a genial buffer but he is no buffoon, according to his daughter, Michael Gove finds



Ishiguro: echoes of Chaucer and of Lewis Carroll

THE UNCONSOLED
By Kazuo Ishiguro
Faber, £6.99

THIS respectable hotel, this city somewhere in Europe: it all seems familiar yet deeply strange. Mr Ryder, celebrity pianist and narrator, checks in authoritatively enough but soon proves absurdly hazy about why he is here.

The staff, attentive yet disturbingly demanding, allude to meetings, tight schedules. Whenever Ryder falls asleep, the telephone rings. Actually this is a city of dreams, perhaps of death. Vaguely remembered people pop up and then suddenly are gone in a realm of anxieties and exhaustion, albeit not without hope.

This extraordinary novel from the author of *The Remains of the Day* has echoes of Chaucer's dream poems, Lewis Carroll,

Fellini. It is a *Divine Comedy* for our times: epic, episodic, satirical, spiritual, poignant though elusive. The story of a pressurised artist, considered a contemporary music guru, becomes a nightmare of flailing civic guidance and a vision of the state we are in as modernity's lost souls.

Ryder's journey, ending on page 535 aboard a circling tram, is not strong on forward-drive. However, Ishiguro's stream of glimpsed encounters is curiously absorbing. Behavioural observations are sharp, particularly of the small boy Ryder takes round with him but often forgets, peckily hyperactive or worryingly stilled. Some might find the tone cold. Yet Ishiguro's quiet eloquence creates the estrangement that partners distress in our dreams.



MEMORIES OF SNOW
By Alison Dye
Sceptre, £5.99

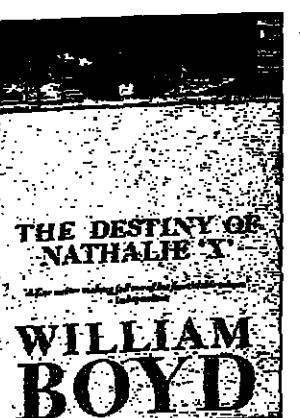
THIS is a compelling and subtle novel about the tragic changes that are wrought in a small New England farming community when its young men go to fight in the Second World War. Raymond Smith returns home to his girlfriend and their baby to find that his familiar world has been irrevocably altered by death and absence, setting the scene for a tragic conclusion. Alison Dye is strikingly astute on the psychological effects of loss and her vividly drawn characters struggle for self-expression with resourcefulness and humour.

ORIGINAL SIN
By P. D. James
Penguin, £5.99

SINISTER practical jokes are followed by suicide and

THE MORAL ANIMAL
Why We Are The Way We Are
By Robert Wright
Abacus, £6.99

WHY IS IT that rich American parents tend to lavish most attention on their sons while poorer parents concentrate on their daughters? It's all to do with giving the family genes the best chance of survival, according to the evolutionary psychologists. In this densely written but highly readable book Robert Wright explains the infant science, showing that many of our patterns of behaviour are built on instinctive self-interest. A bracing view, but not necessarily pessimistic.



THE DESTINY OF NATHALIE X
By William Boyd
Penguin, £5.99

PRIZE-WINNING African film maker Aurelien No has a taste of Hollywood and decides it's not for him. Suicidal Wittgenstein realises that there are people worse off than he and finds the courage to carry on. Edward covets his girlfriend's twin sister and seizes a moment's opportunity to dispose of his rival. Most of these stories concern physical travel. An uninvolved satirist, Boyd catches his characters in the midst of their mental journeys, and with a few well-placed adjectives manages to show them as they are, their shifting perceptions of the world and their place in it.

Kate Bassett, Lucy Lethbridge, Perry Cleveland-Peck, Amanda Loose, Hazel Leslie, Fiona Hook, Nicki Household

THE WRONG GIRL
By Nick McDowell
Sceptre, £5.99

LAURA BLADE is a seriously screwed up heroine who balances on a knife edge between reality and fantasy, half truths and lies. The story, told by Laura, her taxi-driver lover and a shrink, reveals glimpses of a history of parental abuse, bulimia and feelings of lovelessness and revenge. Laura herself emerges as the "storyteller supreme", whose distorted imaginings come to govern the plot and dangerously blur the reader's ability to distinguish between truth and lies. This compelling but destructive character unsettles the reader and those around her, as her powerful tales act upon the mind.

Perhaps for this reason her lively descriptions of life at Winsleyhurst are the most engaging part of the book. Staff-room politics and passions run riot. Matron is a temptress from Mornington in a petasham belt. Douglas Butler, the senior master, still regrets the passing of corporal punishment. Most beguilingly there is Meg, the second matron, who has loved Gervase in silence for 15 years.



CLASS WORK
Edited by Malcolm Bradbury
Sceptre, £6.99

THE FIRST and sole student to attend Malcolm Bradbury and Angus Wilson's MA course in creative writing at the University of East Anglia in 1970 was Ian McEwan. In his introduction to this 25th-anniversary collection of stories by graduates, McEwan heaps praise on his teachers. These diverse stories are linked only by a certain bleakness: especially fine are Kazuo Ishiguro's disturbing tale of a reunion, *A Family Supper*, Jacqui Lofthouse's gruesomely comic monologue, *The Effigy* and *The Great Leonardo*, Erica Wagner's compassionate story about a priest turned fontainer.

THE HOLD Denis Thatcher has on the public imagination is the result, more than anything, of the genius of John Wells and Richard Ingrams, whose "Dear Bill" letters in *Private Eye* took the intrinsic comedy of a male chauvinist hen-pecked by a harridan and turned it into brilliant satire.

The image Wells and Ingrams invented of a gin-drinking, golf-playing, comfortably conservative saloon-bar buffer was so convincing that it is easy to forget that the living inspiration for their caricature is an intriguing figure in his own right. *Below the Parapet* seeks to rescue the real Denis from the imagined. Carol Thatcher's own life,

lived in the shade of a dominating mother and demanding brother, imbues her account of Denis's position with a special sympathy. Although Denis is painted as an enemy of emotion, who rarely spoke to his children unless to bark a command and who was abroad when his wife was selected for Finchley, there is something touching about his silent support, doing the washing-up while advisers worked on speeches with the party leader.

His love for his wife is of a

BELOW THE PARAPET
By Carol Thatcher
HarperCollins, £16.99

practical, undemonstrative kind, common to his age and class but unfashionable now. That makes all the more attractive those moments where feeling breaks through, such as Denis's gift to his wife after the Brighton bombing of a watch inscribed "Every moment is precious". The *Private Eye* caricature of consort as eunuch is firmly demolished. But if Carol Thatcher is a

revisionist in her treatment of Denis's private life, her insights into his political views only serve to reinforce the image already established. There are scores of hilarious anecdotes, all crisply related, but one in particular reveals the unreconstructed Denis of the "Dear Bill" letters. At a Downing Street reception for the cast of *Anyone for Denis?*, a farce based on the *Private Eye* parodies, Denis mistook an actor for a plain-clothes policeman and congratulated him on his colleagues' handling of the Brixton riots: "You get fuzzle-wuzzles on the rampage... you people sort it out in no time at all."

Carol Thatcher admits it was "vintage Denis" but excuses the casual racism by eliding it with Denis's opposition to the "crooked and despotic leaders" of post-colonial Africa. It won't wash. Denis is a glorious golf-club reactionary, not a critic of human rights abuses in Uganda. The appeal of the man and the caricature is the honesty with which he says what so many of his generation think.

Carol Thatcher has done more than capture her father: she has, by faithfully rendering him, caught the cadences of a type of Englishman, comfortable in his prejudices, loyal to simple virtues, who will soon, like Whip grandees and London dockers, be a thing of the past. In retrieving their standard bearer from fiction and making him flesh and blood Carol Thatcher has done that generation, and posterity, a service.



Thatcher: enemy of emotion

John Betjeman's faith was bolstered by his love of church architecture, Simon Jenkins says



St Endellion, Cornwall, painted by Paul Hogarth — the huge granite blocks of the tower are said to have been brought from Lundy Island

JOHN BETJEMAN loved English churches as no man before or since. He approached them not as he did a great station or seaside pier, as a work purely of architecture or design. To him they were the embodiment of faith in stone. The ones he treasured most were the Church of England at prayer. He loved to quote Comper's definition of ecclesiastical architecture, that it should bring you to your knees at first sight.

John Murray's collection of Betjeman's writings on churches has mined a vast quarry. His famous extended introduction to the Collins parish church guide would have occupied half this book alone, though I would have liked to read it here in its entirety rather than filleted. But we

Devotion carved from the rock of ages

IN PRAISE OF CHURCHES
By John Betjeman
Illustrated by Paul Hogarth
John Murray, £17.99

have the favourites, both in prose and verse: the evocation of the tombstone carver "from a lost world of wheelwrights and wagon-makers and inn-sign writers"; the essay on Minal church in Wiltshire, entering which is stepping "straight into a Jane Austen

novel"; the glories of Wren in the City of London, of the great Victorian masters, Pearson and Sedding, and, by contrast, of the much-loved chapels of Cornwall.

We recall Betjeman's fascination with bells. At Uffington, "imprisoned in a cage of sound/Even the trivial seems profound", or at Wantage where "it seems a miracle/That leaf and flower should never even stir/In such great waves of medieval sound". We

are ecumenical in taste. There are Baptist, Quaker, Methodist and Catholic churches and chapels. There is "our padre" whose "voice would reach to Heaven and make the Rock of Ages roll". And we visit Betjeman's final resting place, St Enodoc's by the golf course by the sea in Cornwall, of which he wrote prophetically: "Oh kindly slat! To give me shelter in this crevice dry".

Those who find Betjeman's writing still too mannered for a harder age should beware. Paul Hogarth's watercolour illustrations play up to Betjeman's whimsicality, even sometimes parody it. But they have the measure of the man and of his loves. This is a book of light-hearted devotion.

Telling tales out of prep school

FACING THE MUSIC
By Mary Sheepshears
Century, £16.99

FLORA, beautiful, 21 and a formidably talented flautist, seems destined for stardom, until a broken heart and illness threaten to end her brilliant career.

She begins to teach music at Winsleyhurst, a boys' prep school, where Gervase, the headmaster, 20 years her senior, proffers a worn corduroy shoulder to lean on. Somewhat implausibly they marry — familiar territory to Mary Sheepshears, who was herself wife to the headmaster at Sunningdale School.

Perhaps for this reason her lively descriptions of life at Winsleyhurst are the most engaging part of the book. Staff-room politics and passions run riot. Matron is a temptress from Mornington in a petasham belt. Douglas Butler, the senior master, still regrets the passing of corporal punishment. Most beguilingly there is Meg, the second matron, who has loved Gervase in silence for 15 years.

Admirers of Mary Sheepshears's first novel placed her writing somewhere between that of Mary Wesley and Joanna Trollope. In reality her novels lack the prudence of the former and the sharp contemporaneity of the latter: the character of Meg could have strayed from the pages of a Barbara Pym novel. The warp and woof of Meg's holidays are cooking for her elderly parents and baby-sitting for her ungrateful married siblings.

Hardly surprising that life back at school seems so attractive and we know she need not worry. It is clear from the start that Flora is not a stayer. Alastair Forbes, a handsome single parent, allegedly a former member of the SAS (romantic-fiction shorthand for a virile, firm-jawed hero who is good at skinning rabbits) soon has Flora re-examining her wedding vows and packing her flutes.

I just hope that Meg finally realised that Nice Girls Finish Last and grabbed her chance.

FRANCES DONNELLY

An exciting thriller does not need to profess that it is based on unlikely truth

THE SETT
By Ranulph Fiennes
Heinemann, £15.99

IMAGINE, if you can, a plot that links together the late CIA director William Casey, the former Pakistani President Zia ul-Haq, Winston Silcott and the Broadwater Farm riot, the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International and the Animal Liberation Front. Now try telling your readers that it is all factual.

That is exactly what Ranulph Fiennes has done in *The Sett*, an extraordinarily improbable epic of violence that stretches from Brixton to the Bahamas and back to Blackburn via interludes in Los Angeles and Jamaica. The story starts when an unassuming accountant out walking with his family comes across a group of men indulging in the gruesome "sport" of badger-digging, which involves flushing the creatures out of their sets, maiming them and then setting bull terriers loose to finish them off.

His attempt to stop this brutality ends with his wife and daughter being raped and murdered. He is beaten unconscious and left for dead, only to wake two days later with amnesia. The recovery of his memory leads him on a global hunt for revenge, much of it conducted via the underworld of cocaine, crack and

Pull the other one, Ranulph



Fiennes: an extraordinarily improbable epic of "faction"

prostitution, with the help of an unlikely group of Peckham-based drug dealers — consisting of black Jamaican men and a female Ulster loyalist assassin — who, Robin Hood-style, also run a rehabilitation service for junkie children of rich parents. Phew.

Fiennes himself, of course, is an improbable enough character in real life: a cross between Ian Fleming and some preposterous John Buchan hero. Educated in South Africa and at Eton, he has served in the Royal Scots and the SAS, fought in Arabia and

is a polar explorer of note as well as the author of a dozen books.

One of these, *The Feather Men*, which exploited his SAS background and posed as "faction", topped the British bestseller lists, which I suspect is why Fiennes has decided to return to the genre in *The Sett*. He has spared no pains to make it convincing, including a detailed index of the vast cast of characters, and even photographs of the leading players.

In his epilogue, Fiennes stresses how much of the story he tried to check because of libel fears. It sounds good but in fact all the identifiable characters who might have caused to complain of defamation are dead, except for two who are serving long prison sentences and are linked to the main narrative only incidentally.

According to Fiennes, his protagonist, named Alex Goodman, approached him in 1994, and asked him to write his biography. Fiennes agreed on condition he keep all the proceeds, excusing himself on the grounds that he was a Lloyd's name. Well, maybe, but I think it is a dead giveaway. This book is a *tour de force* in its scope, ambition and eclecticism, but I think it would have been just as good if he admitted he had made it all up.

PETER MILLAR

MARCEL BERLINS

Over the wall and far away

MICHAEL MASON has brought together some 150 accounts of escape in this collection, from the children of Israel decamping from Egypt to Ronnie Biggs going over the wall in rather more recent times. Though most recount real-life escapes, some are fictional, and it is interesting to see how meretricious and artificial Hemingway, le Carré or Joseph Heller appear when sandwiched between rough, untutored narratives of prison or concentration camp experience.

This suggests that Mason has cast his net too wide, a suspicion that is confirmed when he remarks in his introduction that the pieces have been chosen "to remind the reader of what humans can endure and what they can inflict": the experience of prison, rather than the getaway, seems at times to have im-

ESCAPE: An Anthology
Edited by Michael Mason
Chatto & Windus, £16.99

posed itself as the dominant theme of the collection.

Nevertheless, there is much here to enjoy: classical escapes, such as Casanova on the leads of the Ducal Palace in Venice; Charles II after the battle of Worcester; Bonnie Prince Charlie and Flora MacDonald; and a host of lesser-known escapees from prisons and prison-camps throughout the ages.

The successful escaper has endless perseverance and ingenuity: in a First World War prison camp, a skeleton key is made from a biscuit tin and the lid of a pewter beer mug; Henry Latude, imprisoned in the Bastille, makes "an excellent saw" from an iron candlestick.

Disguise is useful: Grotius

escapes from Louvestein in 1621 as a chest of books; during the Second World War, Giles Romilly leaves Wölzburg in lipstick, scarf and camel-hair coat, and indignantly ignores the wolf-whistles of a herd of "loutish Luftwaffe youths"; in 1611 Lady Arabella hoodwinks her gaolers by "drawing on a pair of great French-fashioned Hose over her Petticoats, putting on a Man's Doublet, a man-like Perriquet with long Locks over her Hair, a blacke Hat, black Cloake, russer Bootes and a Rapier by her Syde".

But who is the doughty Lady Arabella, and why is she escaping? The book cries out for annotation, for explanation of circumstances, identity, place and time, but we are never given more than the source of the extract.

T. J. BINYON

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GOING OUT

CHILDREN

LONDON

Aesop's Fabulous Fables
Updated version of the ancient fables for ages three to eight.
Lauderdale House, Waterlow Park, N6 (0181-348 8716). Today 10am & 11.30am; £3, child £2, concs available.

Cotter Sisters Circus

Traditional circus adapted for the 1990s and fun for all the family.
Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, N22 (0836 222232). Today/tomorrow 2pm & 5pm; £6-£10, concs available.

Easter Holiday children's activities

A "family activity cart" travels round the museum offering a variety of activities for ages three to 12.
Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8500). Today/tomorrow 10.30am-5pm, free.

The Famous Five

Enid Blyton's classic children's tales told in musical form.
King's Head, Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916). Today/tomorrow noon, £7, concs £5.

The Golden Feather

Eggbert the Space Bird, Charlotte the Caterpillar and Stanley the Stork star in delightful show for ages five and over.
Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Today 11.30am & 2pm; £3, concs £2.

Go Noah Go!

The Bible story, with added warmth, humour and visual wonder for ages three to nine.
Little Angel Marionette Theatre, Dagmar Passage, Cross Street.



There is plenty to keep the children amused, from kite-making and paper sculpture courses to storytelling sessions and theatre

N1 (0171-226 1787). Today 11am; £5, concs £4.50.

The Marsh King's Daughter
Magical version of Hans Christian Andersen's tale for ages six and over.

Little Angel Marionette Theatre, Dagmar Passage, Cross Street, N1 (0171-226 1787). Today/tomorrow 3pm; £6, concs £5.

Miss Nightingale's Cats
Discover Mr White the Tom-

Cat, Plato the Cicada, Peggy the Pony and Athena the Owl in this paw-print trail around the museum.
Florence Nightingale Museum, Lambeth Palace Road, SE1 (0171-620 0374). Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm; £2.50, concs £1.50, family £5.

Pipsqueak in the Picture
Painting with a mischievous little mouse in this show for ages three to five.

Little Angel Marionette Theatre, Dagmar Passage, Cross Street, N1 (0171-226 1787). Tomorrow 11am; £5, concs £4.50.

REGIONAL

ABERDEEN
Kites!
Children can make their own using plastic bags, paper and ribbons in this workshop for ages seven and over.
Marischal Museum, Marischal College, Broad

Street (01224 273131). Tomorrow 2.30pm-4.30pm; £2.50.

BELFAST

The Magical World of the Care-Bears
Fun show with three comic adventures for ages three to ten.
Belfast Civic Arts Theatre, Botanic Avenue (01232 324936). Today 11am & 2.30pm, tomorrow 2pm & 4.30pm; £4.50, children £4.

Youth Theatre Festival

Two productions a night performed by the city's finest young actors, culminating in an awards ceremony.
Lyric Theatre, Ridgeway Street (01232 381081). Today, phone for details.

CAMBRIDGE

Playdays Live
Stage version of the BBC TV children's programme, featuring the Why Bird and Peggy Patch.
Corn Exchange, Wheeler Street (01223 357851). Today 11am, 2pm & 4.30pm. Tomorrow 2pm & 4.30pm; £7, concs £6.

CANTERBURY

Ali Baba and the Thief of Baghdad
Adaptation of the classic tale of drama and intrigue with a Middle-Eastern theme.
Marlowe Theatre, The Friars (01227 787787). Tomorrow 2pm; £4.50, child £4.

GLASGOW

The Wind in the Willows
A musical version of Kenneth Grahame's timeless classic.
King's Theatre, Bath Street (0141-227 5511). Today/tomorrow 2pm & 7pm; £4-£10, concs available.

HALIFAX

The Show Must Go On
Join the Eureka! staff and help save the day by putting together your own pop concert.
Eureka! Museum for Children, Discovery Road (01422-330069). Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm; £4.75, child £3.75, family £14.95, under-threes free.

LEEDS

Children's Dance Workshop
A chance to learn a range of different dance styles in classes for ages eight to 13.
Northern School Of Contemporary Dance.

Chapelton Road (0113-262 5359). Today 9.30am-2.30pm; 50p.

MANCHESTER

Star Trek - The Exhibition
A treat for all ages with exhibits including a model of the *USS Enterprise* and a full-size set of the transporter room from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.
Museum of Science & Industry, Liverpool Road (0161-832 2244). Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm, £5, concs £3, under-fives free.

Vivid: Children's Workshop

Making paper sculptures using chicken wire, foil, tissue and newspaper. Ages 11 to 16.
Cornhouse, Oxford Street (0161-228 2463). Today 11.30am; £2.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Children's Gallery
Toys, games and art for the under-fives.
Laing Art Gallery, Higham Place (0191-232 7734). Today 10am-5pm, tomorrow 2pm-5pm; free.

Science Factory

Science centre specially designed for children.
Discovery Museum, Blandford Square (0191-232 6789). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; free.

READING

The Phantom of the Opera on Ice
Spectacular tale of love and revenge with 23 of Russia's top skaters.
The Hexagon, Queens Walk (01734 591591). Today 2.30pm & 8pm, £9.50-£18.50, concs available.

SOUTHSEA

The Chuckle Brothers
Fun-filled, slapstick show for all the family.
King's Theatre, Albert Road (01705-828282). Today 11am/2.30pm; £6, child £5.

POP

LONDON

Beanie Man, Shocking Vibes Crew
Jamaican reggae MC.
The Forum, Highgate Road, NW5 (0171-344 0044). Tomorrow 7pm; £16.

David Devant & His Spirit Wife

English pop band harking back to the days of music-hall.
The Garage, Highbury Corner, N5 (0171-607 1818). Today 8pm; £5.

Larry Garner

Mississippi blues.
100 Club, Oxford Street, W1 (0171-636 0933). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £8, members £6.

Natalie Merchant

East Coast folk-rockers, formerly of 10,000 Maniacs.
Shepherd's Bush Empire, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (0181-740 7474). Today 7pm; £11.

Alanis Morissette

Young Canadian singer songwriter.

Shepherd's Bush Empire, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (0181-740 7474). Tomorrow 7pm. Officially sold out.

The Posies
Seattle power-pop quartet.
Astoria 2, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-434 0403). Today 7pm; £6.

REGIONAL

ABERDEEN
The High Llamas
Sean O'Hagan takes his Beach Boys-style pop symphony on the road.
Lemon Tree, West North Street (01224 642230). Tomorrow 7pm; £6, concs £4.

BIRMINGHAM

The Posies
See London.
Foundry, Suffolk Place (0121-643 6843). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £5.

EDINBURGH

The Wildhearts
Punk-metal laddery.
Queen's Hall, Clerk Street (0131-668 2019). Today 7.30pm; £9.



Sonic Youth's Lee Renaldo

GLASGOW

Tasmin Archer
The balladeer starts her comeback.
Royal Concert Hall, Sauchiehall Street (0141-227 5511). Today 7.30pm; £9.

Sonic Youth
See Critic's Choice, below.
Barrowland, Gallowgate (0141-552 4601). Tomorrow 7pm; £10.

HALIFAX

Terrorvision
Bradford funk-rockers with a poppy edge.
Victoria Theatre, Wards End (01422-351158). Today 7.30pm; £8.50.

LIVERPOOL
Mike & The Mechanics
Featuring Genesis guitarist Mike Rutherford.
Liverpool Empire, Lime Street (0151-709 1555). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £14.

MANCHESTER
Babylon Zoo
Space-age gothery.
Manchester Academy, Oxford Road (0161-275 2930). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £8.

★ CRITIC'S CHOICE

Sonic Youth
One of those much talked-about and highly influential acts that consistently under-perform at the box office, Sonic Youth remain big on the fringe, their credentials as the prototype American avant-garde rock band intact.

Manchester Academy, Oxford Road (0161-275 2930). Today 7.30pm; £9.50. Glasgow tomorrow (see above).

READING

Northern Uproar
Lads wanting to be Oasis.
Alleycat, Gun Street (01734-561116). Today 8pm; £5.

JAZZ

LONDON

Akasee
Brazilian-edged jazz.
The Vortex, Stoke Newington Church Street, N16 (0171-254 6516). Today 8pm; £7.

Scott Hamilton Quartet
Tenor-playing lynchpin of the US mainstream circuit.
Bull's Head, Lonsdale Road, SW13 (0181-876 5241). Today 8pm; £7.

John Law's Very Trio
Avant-garde pianist with

Barry Guy, Louis Moholo and Paul Dunmall.
Vortex, Stoke Newington Church Street, N16 (0171-254 6516). Tomorrow 8pm; £4, concs £3.

Linda Lewis
Recently exhumed 1970s folk-funk diva.
Jazz Café, Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tomorrow 7pm; £12.

Paco de Lucia Octet
Flamenco guitar king, of John McLaughlin fame.
Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Today/tomorrow 7.30pm; £10-£25.

★ CRITIC'S CHOICE:
Jazz Encounters
Artistic directors John and Alec Dankworth have come up with an intriguing format for chamber jazz concerts. The series opens tomorrow (Sunday) with a quartet led by Tim Garland, saxophonist with the folk-influenced group Llammas, and the lyrical American guitarist Ralph Towner.

Wigmore Hall, Wigmore St, London W1 (0171-935 2141). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £7.50-£15.

Clarke Peters
Five Guys Named Moe's
creator in cabaret.
Pizza on the Park, Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-235 5550). Today 9pm; £18.

Push
Acid jazz progenitors.
Frith Street, W1 (0171-439 0747). Tomorrow 8pm; £7.

Roots, Ian Shaw Quartet
US bebop all-stars.
Ronnie Scott's, Frith Street, W1 (0171-439 0747). Today 9pm; £12, members £7.

Pharoah Sanders Quartet
Spiritual jazz legends.
The Rhythmic, Chapel Market, N1 (0171-713 5859). Today/tomorrow 8pm; £15, concs £12.

Dave Valentin
US Latin-jazz flautist.
Jazz Café, Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Today 7pm; £12.

REGIONAL

ABERDEEN
Sierra Maestra
Acoustic Cuban music.
Lemon Tree, West North Street (01224 642230). Today 9pm; £6, concs £5.50.

CHELTENHAM
Cheltenham Jazz Festival
A highlight of the jazz year, outstanding line-up.
Town Hall, Imperial Square (01242 227979). Today/tomorrow, phone for details.

GLASGOW
Sierra Maestra
See Aberdeen.
Club Cubano on the Renfrew Ferry, Clyde Street (0141-227 5511). Tomorrow 9pm; £7, concs £5.

CLASSICAL

LONDON

Francois Frederic Guy
Piano recital, including Schubert's D784 sonata.
St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Today 7.30pm; £6 & £10.

Kate Ryder/Sara Stowe
Vocal and musical experimentation by Crumb, Cage, Scelsi and others.
Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £5.50 & £7.50.

London Symphony Orchestra Brass/Crees
Brahms, Elgar.
Barbican Hall, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today 3.30pm; £6-£15.

London Philharmonic/Sawallisch
Brahms's 1st and 3rd Symphonies.
Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow 3pm; £5-£30.

New London Children's Choir/Corp
Youngsters sing Britten.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tomorrow 11.30am; £7.

National Youth Wind Orchestra/Hanson
Khachaturian, Lindgren and Rimsky-Korsakov.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow 3pm; £7-£12.

★ CRITIC'S CHOICE
The Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra presents its Sibelius Symphony Weekend under a distinguished exponent of the great Finn's music: Neeme Jarvi. Symphonies Nos 1 and 4 are tonight (7.30pm); No 2 and Tapiola tomorrow afternoon (4pm) and Nos 5 and 6 tomorrow night (8pm).
Richard Morrison

The Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). £7.50-£22.50

Peter Katin
Piano recital including Beethoven and Chopin.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow 7.45pm; £6-£12.50.

Truls Mork
Cello sonatas: Brahms, Prokofiev and Miaskowsky.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Today 7.30pm; £6-£12.

REGIONAL
BIRMINGHAM
National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain/Furst
Bruckner and Mozart.
Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Today 8pm; £5-£25.

CARDIFF
BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of

Wales/McGegan
Bach Mass in B minor.
St David's Hall, The Hayes (01222 873444). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £6-£19.

MANCHESTER
BBC Philharmonic/Sinaisky
Rachmaninov and Beethoven.
Free Trade Hall, Peter Street (0161-834 1712). Today 7.30pm; £2-£16.

SCARBOROUGH
Northern Sinfonia/Schiff
Tchaikovsky and Elgar.
Spa Grand Hall, Spa Complex (01723 376 774). Today 7.30pm; £5-£8.

OPERA

LONDON

Carmen
Travelling Opera's production of Bizet's classic story.
Richmond Theatre, The Green, (0181-940 0088). Today 7.45pm; £8-£20.

★ CRITIC'S CHOICE

Tosca
Keith Warner's tricky production of Puccini's melodrama is certainly a box-office draw - English National Opera has scheduled 15 performances this spring. Janice Cairns, a soprano who always gives 110 per cent in performance, sings Sardou's put-upon opera-singer (who does the same). David Rendall plays her less than entirely satisfactory lover, and Phillip Joll joins the production as the secret police chief who exploits the cracks in their relationship. Alex Ingram is the conductor.

Rodney Milnes
London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300). Today 7.30pm, £8-£50. @



Janice Cairns in Tosca

REGIONAL

GLASGOW
Alceste
Gluck's Enlightenment score in a production from Scottish Opera.
Theatre Royal, Hope Street (0141-332 9000). Today 7.15pm; £3.50-£45.

YEOVIL
Rigoletto
Verdi's dramatic tragedy in English Touring Opera's production, directed by Stephen Medcalf.
Octagon, (01935 22884). Today 7.30pm; £9.50-£16.50.

DANCE

LONDON

Royal Ballet: Giselle
Production by Sir Peter Wright.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000). Today 2pm & 7pm; £2-£58.50.



Sarah Wildor in Giselle

Claire Russ Ensemble: Sweet Boys
The old favourite of how women view men, explored by five dancers.
Place Theatre, Duke's Road, WC1 (0171-387 0031). Today 8pm; £8, concs £6.

★ CRITIC'S CHOICE
Les Grands Ballets Canadiens
This company from Montreal offers contemporary work that is incisive, skilled and meaningful. New to Britain are a revival of William Forsythe's first ballet, *Urficht*, a duet to Mahler music; Mark Morrissey's *Quincunx*, and creations for the company by choreographers Itzik Galili and Kevin O'Day.
John Percival
Blackpool (see above, right) and *Sadler's Wells Theatre*, London, EC1 (0171-713 6000) Tue-Sat 7.30pm, £7.50-£17.50, concs £10.

Tap Dogs
Dein Perry's tap-dancing lads return to the West End.
Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Today 6pm & 8.45pm. £5-£22.50.

REGIONAL

BALLYMENA
Nine Glens Irish Dancing Festival
Community groups compete in this annual shindig.
Protestant Hall, (01960 366128). Today 9.30am-10pm; 50p day rate, concs 25p.

BARNSTAPLE
Adonais Ballet Company: Arabian Nights
Full-length ballet based on the tale of Scheherazade.
Queens Theatre, Boutport Street (01271 24242). Today 7.45pm; £7-£8.50, concs £5-£6.50.

BELFAST
Riverdance - The Show
Song and dance phenomenon with a cast of 80.
King's Hall, Balmoral (01232 665225). Today 2.30pm and 8pm £17.50-£22.50.

BLACKPOOL

Grandes Ballets Canadiens
See Critic's Choice.
Grand Theatre, (01253 28372) Tomorrow, 7.30pm, £12.50-£14.50.

BUXTON

London City Ballet: Cinderella
A new production of Prokofiev's ballet.
Buxton Opera House, Water Street (01298 72190). Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm; £10.50-£17.50, concs available.

DARLINGTON
Northern Ballet Theatre: Swan Lake
1992 production by Christopher Gable and Michael Barrett-Pink.
Civic Theatre, Parkgate (01325 486555). Today 2pm and 7.30pm; £4.50-£25.50, concs available.

EDINBURGH
Adventures In Motion Pictures: Swan Lake
Matthew Bourne's Olivier Award-winning ballet.
Festival Theatre, Nicolson Street (0131-529 6000). Today 2.30pm and 7.30pm; £4.50-£25.50, concs available.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
Scottish Ballet: La Sylphide/Ae Fond Kiss
Adapted by Mark Baldwin.
Theatre Royal, Grey Street, (0191-232 2061). Today 1.30pm (Klimentova/Bubnov) & 7.30pm (Shinohara/McKenzie); £4-£27.50, concs available.

THEATRE

LONDON

Definitely Doris
Revue-style musical celebrating the life and songs of Miss Day.
King's Head, 119 Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916). Sat, 8pm; mat 3.30pm and tomorrow, 3.30pm. Until May 26. @

★ CRITIC'S CHOICE
An Ideal Husband
Only one more week to catch an unpretentiously radical reinterpretation of what most people had assumed was one of Oscar Wilde's least memorable plays, a glossy society melodrama peppered with smart aphorisms. Martin Shaw and the rest of Peter Hall's fine cast offer a touching blend of the timely and the timeless. Wilde's semi-autobiographical message crosses the cons.
Benedict Nightingale
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Today 3pm and 7.45pm. Ends April 20.

An Inspector Calls
Stephen Daldry's powerful production with Nicholas Woodeson as the Inspector, Edward Peel and Susan Engel.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Today 5pm and

GOING OUT

13

FAIRS AND SHOWS

LONDON

Heritage Antiques Fair
Sale and display of a wide range of jewellery, silver, glass prints and painting.
Kensington Palace Hotel, De Vere Gardens, W8 (011-937 8121).
Tomorrow 11am-5pm; £1.

London Birdkeeping & Small Animal Fair

One-day bird extravaganza with everything you could want to know about keeping small animals and birds.
Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, N22 (0181-365 2121).
Tomorrow 9.30am-5pm; £5, concs £4, child £1, under-fives free.

London Book Fair

Sale of antique and second-hand books and prints.
Russell Hotel, Russell Square, WC1 (0171-837 6478).
Tomorrow 2pm-7pm, free.

Spring Needlecraft Fair

More than 150 suppliers of embroidery, needlepoint and patchwork gather for this major event.

Olympia, Hammersmith Road, W14 (0171-603 3344). Today 9.30am-5.30pm, Tomorrow 9.30am-5pm; £8, concs £7, child £5.

REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM

The NEC April Fair
Massive antique fair, with more than 500 exhibitors in two distinct sections, pre-1914 and pre-1940.

National Exhibition Centre, (0121-780 4133). Today 11am-6pm, Tomorrow 11am-6pm; £5.

DUNFERMLINE

Craft & Design Fair
Sale and display of some of the best contemporary Scottish crafts.
Glen Pavilion, (01882-731885). Tomorrow 11am-5pm; 60p, concs 30p.

EDINBURGH

International Science Festival
Lectures, workshops and discussions as

part of the world's largest science festival. Highlights of the festival include the Heavenly Scent Exhibition at the Royal Museum of Scotland (open daily from 10am-5pm) and Megafun With Computers at the Science Dome (open daily 10am-5pm). Plus there is a session on the Science of Baked Alaska (3pm at the Royal Museum of Scotland) and the New Zealand Flatworm (5pm at the Senate Room). Various venues. (0131-220 3977). Today/tomorrow, phone for details.

Scottish Kit Car Show

The only kit car show north of the border with more than 1,000 vehicles on display.
Royal Highland Centre, (0131-333 2444). Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm; phone for prices.

GATESHEAD

Spring Flower Show

Sixth annual flower show with floral exhibits, trade and craft stalls.
Gateshead Central Nursery, (0191-4901616). Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm; £2.80, concs £1.40.

LINCOLN

Antique & Collector's Fair

The best of the region's antiques and collectibles with exhibits for sale from 1900 to the present day.
Lincolnshire Showground, (01522 524240). Tomorrow 10am-5pm; 60p, concs 30p, children free.

PONTYPRIDD

Model Railway Show

Display of railway, engineering and other transport models.
Pontypridd Historical & Cultural Centre, (01443 409512). Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm; £1, concs 30p.

SHUGBOROUGH

Gamekeepers' Fair

Day of events including arena demonstrations, gun-dog competitions, falconry and clay pigeon shooting.
Shugborough House, (01889 881338). Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm; £5, child free.



Animal lovers should head for the Birdkeeping and Small Animals Fair in London

COMING SOON



See Tina Turner in action around Britain

LONDON

From April 24

Fidelio
Graham Vick directs a new English National Opera production, with Kathryn Harries as Leonore. London Coliseum. Box Office: 0171-632 8300.

May 21, 22, 25, 30, 31

Birmingham Royal Ballet

Three programmes at the Royal Opera House, including two works by David Bintley — *Carmina Burana*, showing with Frederick Ashton's *Birthday Offering* and *Far From the Madding Crowd*. Box Office: 0171-304 4000.

May 22-August 26

Degas — Beyond Impressionism

Major retrospective at the National Gallery. Advance bookings: 0171-420 0000.

REGIONAL

June, July

Tina Turner

Croke Park, Dublin

June 28, 00 35 31

3363222: Murrayfield

Stadium, Edinburgh (June 30, 0131-557 6969);

Gateshead

International Stadium, Gateshead (July 12, 0191-478 5555/7777); Cardiff

Arms Park (July 14, 01222 230130); Don Valley

Stadium, Sheffield (July 18, 0114 279797); Wembley

Stadium (July 20-21, 0181-900 1234).

SCARBOROUGH

April 24

By Jeeves

Alan Ayckbourn and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical opens the new Stephen Joseph Theatre-in-the-Round, from April 24-June 1. Box Office: 01723 370540.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON

From April 17

New RSC Season

A new production of *As You Like It* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre (from April 18) and Webster's *The White Devil* (from April 17). Box office: 01789 295623.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
Philip Schofield plays the lad with the pretty jacket in a revival of the first Lloyd Webber/Rice creation.
Labatt's Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0171-416 6082). Today 3pm and 7.30pm. Until Apr 20.

The Relapse
Victor Spinetti plays the fretful Lord Foppington in Ian Judge's production.
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today, 7.15pm; mat 2pm. In rep with *The Devil is an Ass*. £

The Prince's Play
Ken Stott plays the Rigoletto role in Victor Hugo's *Le Roi S'Amuse* transposed to Victorian London by Tony Harrison, with the Prince of Wales as the cool philanthropist.
National, (Lymington), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Previews tomorrow, 8pm, then Apr 15-18, 7.15pm; opens Apr 19, 7pm. £

Skylight
Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a reunion between two lovers.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Today 3pm and 8pm. Until Apr 27.

REGIONAL
EDINBURGH
Pygmalion
Michael Mackenzie teaches and Emily Winter learns how to speak

proper in Hugh Hodgart's production.
Royal Lyceum, Grindlay Street (0131-229 9697). Tonight, 7.45pm. Until May 4.

HORSHAM
Howard's End
Snap Theatre Company's vibrant adaptation of E.M. Forster's study of Edwardian class divisions.
Arts Centre, North Street (01403 259708). Tonight, 8pm.

HULL
The Canterbury Tales
Last night here for this adaptation by Michael Bogdanov, written by Robin Davies.
New, Kingston Square (01482 226655). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm.

LEEDS
The Entertainer
Anthony Clark's acclaimed production, with David Ross superb in the title role, direct from its Birmingham premiere.
Quarry, West Yorkshire Playhouse, The Quarry, Hill Mount (0113-244 2111). Today, 3pm and 7.30pm. Until Apr 20. £

MANCHESTER
Chess
A tenth-anniversary tour led by veterans of musical blockbusters Jacqui Scott, Bogdan Kominowski and Maurice Clarke. Music by the Abba team of Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvæus; lyrics by Tim Rice.
Opera House, Quay Street (0161-242 2509). Today 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Until Apr 20. £

FILM

Films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

★ CRITIC'S CHOICE

Mighty Aphrodite (15)

Amazed at the high IQ of his adopted son, Woody Allen goes in search of his natural mother. He expects the equivalent of Einstein: he finds a dumb tart with a heart. Allen, of course, plays the schmuck, and

Oscar-winner Mira Sorvino gives a well-rounded performance as the porno actress who inspires Allen to play matchmaker. With Helena Bonham Carter. Geoff Brown

Barbican (0171-638 8891) Chelsea (0171-351 3742)

Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) ICA (0171-930 3647) Odeons

Haymarket (01426 915353) Kensington (01426 914666)

Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) Phoenix (0181-883 2233)

Screen/Baker Street (0171-935 2772) Screen/Green (0171-226 3520) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner West End (0171-437 4343)

♦ Broken Arrow (15)

John Travolta steals nuclear weapons; Christian Slater tries to get them back. Bumpious action movie directed by John Woo.

MGM Chelsea (0171-352 3096) Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) Marble Arch (01426 914501) Swiss Cottage (01426 914098)

West End (01426 915 574) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332)

♦ City Hall (15)

Something's rotten in the city of New York, even with Al Pacino as Mayor. With Bridget Fonda.

MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031) Odeons: Kensington (01426 914 666) Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332)

♦ Dead Man Walking (15)

Oscar-winner Susan Sarandon visits Sean Penn on Death Row in this powerful drama. Director, Tim Robbins.

MGM: Baker Street (0171-435 9772) Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279)

Odeon Kensington (01426 914666) Phoenix (0181-883 2233) Renoir (0171-837 8402) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343)

♦ Get Shorty (15)

John Travolta's loan shark takes on the movie business. Director, Barry Sonnenfeld.

Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) ICA (0171-930 3647) MGM: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Trocadero (0171-434 0031) Odeon Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332)

♦ Leaving Las Vegas (18)

Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Director, Mike Figgis.

MGM Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470) Odeon Mezzanine (01426 915683) Plaza (0171-437 1234) Warner (0171-437 4343)

Nadja (15)

Dracula's offspring in New York.

Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) ICA (0171-930 3647) MGM: Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148)

COMEDY

LONDON

Banana Cabaret

Boothby Graffoe, Paul Tomkinson and Mike Hayley. *The Bedford, Bedford Hill, SW12 (0181-673 1756).* Today 9pm; £6, concs.

Best New Act of '96

Phil Jupitus introduces the winners: Noel Britten, Gina Yashere, Dan Evans, Will Smith.

Hackney Empire, Mare Street, E8 (0181-985 2424). Tomorrow 8pm; £6.

Best in Stand-up

Fred MacAuley MCs. *Comedy Store, Oxford Street, SW1 (01426 914433).* Today 8pm & midnight; £10.

★ CRITIC'S CHOICE

John Hegley. Spectacle swot with retro cool, this silly but sharp stand-up poet will doubtless recite his stanzas with customary pedantry.

Kate Bassett

BAC, Lavender Hill, Battersea SW11 (0171-223 2223). Today and tomorrow, 8pm.

Jongleurs, Includes Mickey Hutton, Matt Welton and Kevin Day. Jongleurs Comedy Club, Camden Lock, Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-924 2766). Today 7.15pm & 11.15pm; £10, concs £7.

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Ruth Gledhill shares a spiritual sunrise in Yorkshire on Easter Sunday

Faith dawns eternal



TO STAND at the top of a hill in the Pennines, North Yorkshire, at Sam on Easter Day, when most people are asleep in bed, turned into a tripartite if not trinitarian act of faith. We were there to see the sun rise on a day when Christian churches worldwide were celebrating the rising of the Son of God.

The view was spectacular, despite the mist and drizzle, which allowed no sight of the sun itself. Only the cock crowing three times at a farm we passed on the mile-long stony path to the top of the Farnhill Pinnacle in Airedale, and the Farnhill Pinnacle in Airedale, and the gradually dawning light around us, supported the assertion of our minister that the sun had indeed risen. We duly launched into our third hymn, *Shine, Jesus shine, Fill this land with the Father's glory*.

We had also needed faith to believe we were not alone in an act that seemed at times insane — despite the Methodist madness. The annual Sunrise Service at Farnhill is organised by the local Methodist minister, for the last three years the Rev Mollie Greenwood, and years the Rev Mollie Greenwood, and usually attracts Methodists from chapels for miles around, as well as members of other denominations.

But a few weeks ago, the Methodist Church announced an alarming trend of disaffection, with churchgoing figures

showing it was losing 26 members a day. Our climb by torchlight was solitary, with little but an enormous white cement rock with a cross atop it to indicate we had arrived at our destination. We wondered if anyone else would show up. But gradually, they did, and in

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ A five-star guide ★

MINISTER: The Rev Mollie Greenwood.

SERMON: None here, although the minister went on to take three more services that day.

ARCHITECTURE: Spectacular scenery marred only by the orange street lights in the valley below. ★★★★★

LITURGY: Prayers, hymns and reading. ★★

MUSIC: Bravely attempted hymns, although the presence of a small orchestra seemed little short of miraculous. ★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Tea, coffee and hot-cross buns, consumed with relish in the Methodist chapel at the foot of the hill. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Early-morning penitence transformed into acceptance and serenity by the magnitude of the event. ★★★★★

impressive numbers. Entire families and their dogs, trailing children and pensioners, arrived at the top of the hill in overcoats, woolly hats and mufflers. They brought an orchestra with them. Everything from a battery-powered electric organ to a flute, tambourine and even a cello was valiantly carried up that hill.

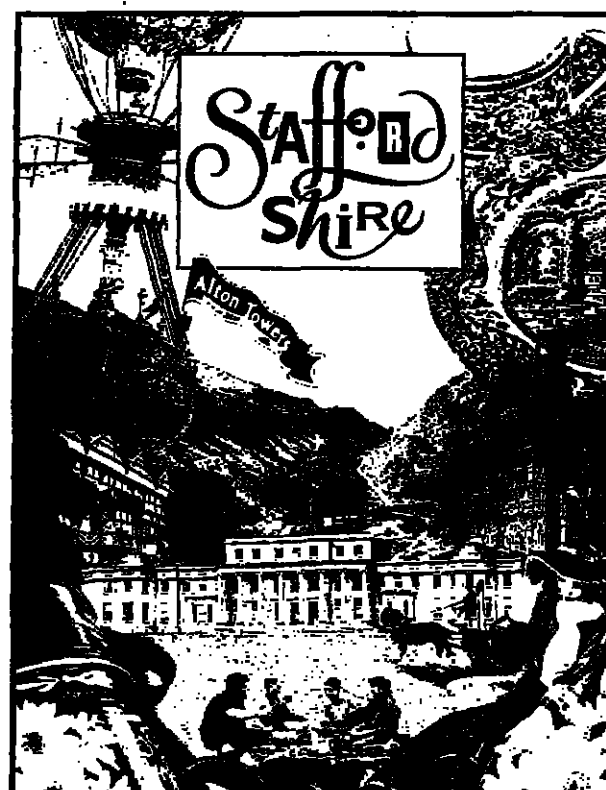
"Alleluia! Christ is risen!" cried Ms Greenwood. "Above us we have the light dawning on this Easter Day. The light will cast out every trace of darkness," she said. "We come believing that Christ's resurrection casts out the darkness of despair which otherwise could so easily overpower us."

The children and teenagers seated on tomb-like stones narrated the biblical resurrection story, and the minister prayed: "Lord, we gather together to worship you, to give our adoration, our thanks and our praise. We unite with thanks as one, with joy and happiness, to welcome you, the risen Lord."

She prayed for those sleeping in the valley below, "with all their needs, hopes and fears".

After our last hymn we offered each other the peace, and descended the hill, faintly incredulous that we had walked miles, climbed a hill and been to church and it was still only 7.30am.

♦ Easter Sunrise Service at Farnhill Pinnacle, near Kildwick, N Yorkshire. The Rev Mollie Greenwood, 01535 635140.



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سفرات

Spain: the haunting beauty of the Alhambra palace and a dead poet's society make Granada unforgettable

Echoes of the Moors' last sigh



The magnificent Alhambra palace sits on a lofty spur beneath the Sierra Nevada surrounded by lush gardens. Inside it is a treasure house of exquisite Moorish decorative arts

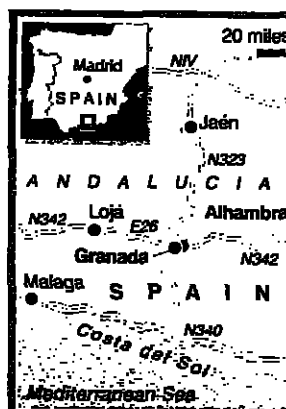
FACT FILE

■ The author flew to Spain as a guest of Iberia (0171-830 001). Return fare for the London-Granada flight (via Madrid or Barcelona) is from £169, plus £5 tax.

■ In Granada he stayed at the three-star Hotel Guadalupe (00 34 58 223423) as a guest of Travellers' Way (01527 836791). The hotel, adjacent to the Alhambra, offers a double room with breakfast at about £57, plus 7 per cent VAT. Even closer to the Alhambra is the Moorish-style Alhambra Palace (00 34 58 22 14 66), where B&B costs about £97, plus VAT. There is also the pricier Parador de San Francisco, a former monastery, within the Alhambra walls (00 34 58 22 14 40), or via Keytel on 0171-402 8182. At the foot of the Albaicin, is the Hotel Triunfo (00 34 58 20 74 44), with B&B from about £57, plus VAT.

■ One of the best restaurants, serving typical Granada cuisine with a distinct Arabic touch, is the Mirador de Morayma in the Albaicin. In the not-too-fancy category is the Meson Andaluz, Calle Elvira 10.

■ Spanish National Tourist Office, 57 St James's Street, London SW1A 1LD (0171-499 0901).



We were going to Granada to visit the Alhambra when Federico Garcia Lorca detained us on the way. "Stop," my wife said, scanning the map. "I think he was born over there, in Fuentes Vaqueros."

I pulled off the motorway, leaving the world of whizzing lorries and mighty petrol tankers, and moved into a zone of unexpected rurality. Donkey and mule carts were bringing home fodder for the animals; long streamers of tobacco leaf hung drying in barns; dense groves of poplar swayed in the brisk wind.

It was into this agricultural scene that Lorca, the poet and dramatist, was born in 1898. He was shot dead at the age of 38, in 1936, at the height of his powers in an "execution" by Nationalist thugs in the opening days of the Spanish Civil War.

The Lorca family house in Fuentes Vaqueros, about nine miles west of Granada, is now a museum and the village school is called the Colegio Publico Federico Garcia Lorca. All is as it should be. But it is for the imposing Alhambra, rather than Lorca's work, that the richness of the garden valley, the *vega*, is best known.

The Alhambra sits on a defensible spur beneath the lofty Sierra Nevada, lording it over the plains. Inside, it is a treasure house of Moorish decorative arts, with arabesques of seemingly infinite patterns, exquisite ceilings and wall tiles, bound together by an architecture so delicately contrived that the palace



The tiled interior of the Alhambra's Casa Real

seems to float in a state of weightlessness. All of it was based on agricultural wealth, not only the Palatine city on the spur but the more humble city below where ordinary people lived.

Water was essential to agriculture and the Moors were brilliant irrigators and managers of water, so it comes as no surprise that water is a central element of the Alhambra. You feel its presence everywhere, from the Generalife gardens above, with their long, axial pool, down to the Courtyard of the Lions, where water runs in four channels from delicate, pillared pavilions, to symbolise the rivers of paradise, and the long, dark pool of the Courtyard of Myrtles, where at night the sultans could see the reflection of their palace and the glimmering stars. Water meant

power as well as beauty and fascination.

There is so much to see at the Alhambra that no matter how many times you go there, no matter how crowded it may be, the reaction is open-mouthed wonder and delight.

There is a magnificent view of the palace from the hill opposite, the Albaicin, which also qualifies for five-star rating. From this ancient residential quarter, Arabic then Christian, with its narrow lanes and a mass of hidden gardens, you look across at the rough red of the external walls of the Alhambra and see it, suddenly, as the fortress that it was, as well as pleasure place and centre of power. None of which, of course, should distract you from the less-visited city of Granada below. Some

find this city melancholy, perhaps because of the historical record. In 1492 Ferdinand and Isabel, the king and queen of Aragon and Castile, captured Granada and put an end to Moorish rule in Spain.

Christian Granada seems to be quite jolly as well as somewhat sad, its moods exemplified by the great number of students at university and language schools, and the presence of the bourgeoisie, so prominent a feature of Lorca's city. If you want, you can sit in the smarter cafes alongside women in fur coats, or join the younger throng in the tapas bars around the Plaza Nueva — at the Trastienda (Behind the Shop), for instance, in adjoining Plaza de Cuchilleros, where you squeeze past a counter selling mountain ham and cheese and take a tiny table in the back; or the rougher, readier Casa Julio across the way at Calle Hermosa, where the speciality is fried anchovies and discs of aubergine. There's also a little street called Calderia Nueva, full of Moroccan cafes serving honeyed cakes and endless varieties of tea in tiny glasses.

If your cultural appetite is not yet satisfied there is the Capilla Real, or Royal Chapel, where Ferdinand and Isabel are buried, under a soaring roof in Isabelline Gothic. Then there is the Charterhouse, a byword for Baroque excess. And the former Hieronymite monastery, now inhabited by nuns of a closed order, its cloister full of Renaissance doorways, its church lined with 18th-century frescoes. We paid a visit one evening and

stood enchanted in the cloister, among sweet-smelling orange trees, while the invisible nuns sang in their closed chapel, their voices rising thin as those of schoolgirls.

Since last year there has been something extra in Granada, an addition for those with an interest in that powerful local talisman, Federico Garcia Lorca. When the Lorca family finally moved from the

vega into a town apartment, they kept a little "country house" about ten minutes' walk away on the city's edge. Here they would spend the summers and, in his simple bedroom overlooking roses and cypress trees, Lorca wrote many of his finest poems and several of his plays. The house, now surrounded by a municipal-style park and close to a motorway-style bypass, has

just been opened to the public, with Lorca's niece, Laura Garcia-Lorca, as director. Furnished with its original contents — including a tablecloth embroidered in traditional patterns by Lorca's mother — it is a perfectly preserved Spanish interior of the 1930s and 1930s.

Considering the poet's fate, and the beauty of the verses that he wrote here, there is

nowhere in the city — except for the Alhambra — and the memory of its vanquished princes — that better signifies Granada's bitter-sweet cocktail of sadness and delight.

"Many Spanish visitors cannot enter my uncle's bedroom," Laura Garcia-Lorca told us. "They just stand on the threshold and weep."

ADAM HOPKINS

Homes that are as old as the hills

WEST from Granada, an hour or so beyond the place of Lorca's death, you reach cave country — inhabited by troglodytes, Adam Hopkins writes.

Dug into the base of huge clay riverbanks or hills of the same hard clay, these dwellings have as many as eight or ten rooms to accommodate a sprawling family. The rooms all run into one another or are reached by little tunnels, brilliantly whitewashed like the interiors of other Andalusian houses.

Because of the constant year-round temperature of 20F they make comfortable homes, and if you put your kitchen and bathroom on the front, where you will probably have windows in the clay facade, problems of condensation are

minimal. These days, too, all the homes have running water and electricity.

Sadly, the caves fell out of favour during the 1960s and most of those who could afford to moved into apartment blocks, leaving behind many empty caves, and some in the hands of the poor.

Enter the Martinez family, building constructors from the strange city of Guadix, capital of cave country. The family has bought a neighbourhood of hillside caves and converted 30 of them into a hotel complex — the Cuevas Pedro Antonio de Alarcon (named after the local man who wrote the tale of the three-cornered hat, source book for Manuel de Falla's opera). Rooms have been dug out and made much bigger. The wooden

furniture is painted, local-style, like gypsy waggons. There's a cave dining room serving local dishes and, if it wasn't for a motorway running in the valley beneath, it would be a troglodytic idyll.

The hotel opened late last year and I was the first foreign visitor. I'd go back like a shot for the extraordinary landscape of eroded clay and the pleasure of sleeping inside a hill with its views of the Sierra Nevada.

I predict a fashionable future for the caves of the Guadix hinterland.

● Book via Andalusian Charming Hotels (00 34 5 2445591). Cave with two double rooms and kitchen/living room from about £40. Further information: Spanish National Tourist Office (0171-499 0901).

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Baby-friendly Barbados; cruising to Cuba
PAGES 16, 17



PALACES IN PERU
Slow train to the Lost City; traveller's guide to Peru
PAGE 18



ACTIVE BREAKS
Gliding for beginners; reading as a holiday
PAGE 19

PLUS TRAVEL TIPS AND SUBSIDIES PAGE 21

Caribbean: a dream family holiday in Barbados; exploring the haunting landscape of Costa Rica and

New hands rock the cradle

The first thing you need after a nine-hour flight is a refreshing dip in the sea. But as I emerged from the foam, I was bleeding and half-blind. I had chanced on a piece of coral and cut myself, and then a stray wave knocked off my prescription glasses, leaving me staggering around in the sand.

And this was just the beginning of our family holiday in Barbados. Could it improve with an 11-month-old baby and an exhausted banker husband in tow?

The answer was a resounding yes. A week at the newly opened Almond Beach Village hotel was the answer to our prayers.

The village opened in December last year to cater for working parents who need a relaxing break with their offspring. As a father of two, Ralph Taylor, managing director of Almond Beach Village and its sister hotel, Almond Beach Club, was well aware of the problems faced by holidaymakers with children. Until the Almond Beach opened, there was nowhere on the island which provided a comprehensive family holiday. Bajan culture is of the "children should be seen and not heard" variety.

If parents were asked to name their ideal holiday facilities, top of their list would be a hotel crèche which opened from 9am-5pm. It would be manned by trained personnel whom you trusted. It would take tiny babies as well as older children. The staff would be happy to prepare bottles of formula and hunt down parents should their children become distressed. There would be cots for afternoon naps and an outside play area.

There would be warm sea and safe swimming off sandy beaches, with adequate shade so little Johnny didn't burn. And baby-sitters to enable soirees at beach-side restaurants at reasonable prices.

There would be good-sized rooms with space for a cot and a fridge to store bottles. Even better would be a "one-bedroom suite" with an adjoining sitting room to double as a baby's bedroom. The restaurants would provide highchairs and the staff and other guests would be understanding and sympathetic.

All this, and more, is provided by Almond Beach Village. For those with older children, the all-inclu-

FACT FILE

■ The author was a guest of Almond Beach Village, which has 280 rooms and a family centre.

■ Almond Beach resort's all-inclusive holiday includes: return flights and transfers, accommodation, breakfast, lunch, tea, dinner, unlimited wine, beer, branded drinks and soft drinks with lunch and dinner; sports activities; qualified instruction; children's clubs and nursery; evening entertainment; insurance.

■ Prices for a seven-night package: adults from £1,196; there is no charge for children up to 12 staying in parents' rooms. Child flights cost from £393. Children travel free up to



the age of two. The price for the second child depends on room size.

■ Simply Caribbean are experts in tailor-made holidays to the Caribbean. For more information, a brochure or to book, telephone 01423 526887

sive price means parents don't have to keep dishing out money for ice-creams and popcorn. In an imaginative touch, treats are dispensed every afternoon from a candy-striped bicycle.

Of course, no hotel can deal with the inevitable jet-lag which disturbs children's sleep for the first couple of days. And no hotel can soothe your baby to sleep at 8pm when the little angel thinks it is time for his afternoon outing. Nor can it save you from the unbelievable amount of luggage a baby imposes.

But whatever horrors the nights bring, the village crèche means that parents can take a siesta during the day to catch up on their sleep. It also ensures that parents can pick 'n' mix their holiday — playing with junior, visiting Villa Nova, Anthony Eden's former home on the east coast of the island. After watching the baby splash around in one of the village's nine pools, you can visit the capital, Bridgetown, and admire Nelson's Column in the main square.

This was indeed the holiday of our dreams. The turquoise sea and white-sand beaches, the scent of

tropical flowers and old-fashioned Bajan charm all worked their magic.

There were some minor gripes. Child monitors would have been helpful. English ones don't have the range for the village's 30-acre site. Dinner time also brought its problems: either you hired a babysitter at £3.50 an hour or interrupted your candle-lit meal to nip back to the room and check that the baby was sleeping peacefully. However, the hotel promises to investigate the provision of monitors.

While the food was excellent, it wasn't baby-friendly. One solution was to buy jars from the local supermarket. Another was to ask a chef in one of the village's four restaurants if he would cook something simple such as scrambled eggs or grilled fish — and more often than not he would oblige.

One important point to remember is that if your baby is over a year old, he or she is unlikely to fit into a British Airways bassinet. Instead, you will have the child on your lap for most of the flight. Smart mothers book a child seat and bring a car seat with them.

RACHEL KELLY



Parents are free to enjoy watersports while children are looked after at the Almond Village crèche

Megaship boost for cheaper cruising

MORE than 350,000 British holidaymakers will cruise the Caribbean and Mediterranean this year, and the travel industry is convinced that by the turn of the century this number will have doubled.

Despite reports of fires in mid-ocean, unfinished maintenance work, ships running into submerged reefs, and a "disastrous" start for Thomson in the market, nothing can apparently halt the surge in interest in cruising.

The biggest stimulus to growth has been created by the cheaper voyages offered by the mass-market tour operators. Airtours, for example, has teamed up with the American cruise company Carnival to enable British holidaymakers to fly to Florida, spend three nights in a hotel and then four nights aboard one of the company's "floating resorts" — two-deck superliners — from £499 per person.

Even as its first chartered vessel, *Sapphire*, was running into problem after problem in the Mediterranean this week, Thomson announced that "following the success of its new Mediterranean cruises" it would be offering trips in the Caribbean on board *Horizon*, a Greek-owned ship in the Celebrity Cruises fleet, from £669 for a week next winter.

"The advent of charters now bring tropical cruising within reach of a whole new generation of holidaymakers, with prices comparable to many of the most popular Caribbean beach holidays," says Thomson's managing director Charles Newbold.

A 23-night cruise on P&O's flagship *Oriana* costs from £1,995, and holidaymakers spending Christmas and New Year at sea between Mombasa and the Seychelles will pay £1,460 per person for a suite on Cunard's *Sea Goddess*.

As the demand grows, however, more islands are having to tackle the problems caused by what amounts to floating blocks of flats (and all too often their accumulated rubbish) arriving at their prettiest ports and then sailing away having contributed little or nothing to the local economy.

HARVEY ELLIOTT



Friendly Above



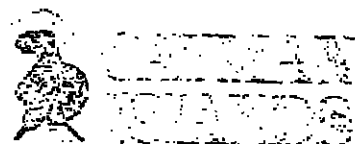
Friendly Below

In the Cayman Islands the people are renowned for their warmth and friendliness. The powder white sands of Seven Mile Beach shelve gently into a turquoise sea.

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We stood in the moonlight, gazing up at the towering Arenal volcano, its peak shrouded in dark, drifting cloud. It chattered and huffed away like a grumpy old steam engine. Spiralling plumes of reddish-brown smoke and ash broke the cloud cover. Red-hot lava glowed on the barren lower slopes.

Our Tico guide spoke decent English and conveyed his disappointment. He wanted us to see the spectacular nocturnal pyrotechnics of a huge eruption. We waited expectantly for an hour or so. "Sorry, no good tonight," he said.

My wife and I made for the truck, ready for bed at the nearby mountain lodge. And then the unpredictable giant rumbled and roared. The cloud cleared momentarily to reveal a perfect conical shape, and the peak exploded into a

brilliant fireworks display that blazed in the night sky.

It was our last night in Costa Rica, which lies between Nicaragua and Panama and has coastlines on both the Caribbean and the Pacific, and nature had provided an unforgettable grand finale.

This was a memorable trip and, mostly, the memories are fond ones. As a couple of 60-plus-year-olds, we should, perhaps, have opted for a quieter life. We rode roughshod for four hours on horseback to get to the top of another volcano and down again. We sampled the excitement and nerve-

Explosions of natural beauty

jangling risks of white water rafting. We thrust through narrow, log-strewn jungle waterways in a small boat. We drove where signposts were non-existent and the potholes were like mantraps.

It was no rest cure. Costa Rica has miles of deserted golden beaches and a scattering of excellent hotels for those who simply want to laze in the tropical sun. But that is to waste an opportunity to explore and appreciate a country which, in an area about the size of Switzerland, packs in an extraordinary diversity of scenic and climatic changes with flora and fauna to match — 5 per cent of the world's plant and animal species and 10 per cent of its butterflies.

It boasts more protected national parkland for its size than any other nation, has Latin America's longest unbroken record for democratic government, and abolished its army in 1949.

There is, of course, a downside. Outside the protected areas, the marvellous rainforests are logged, legally and illegally, at an alarming rate.

There are huge foreign debts. Cleared land is needed to grow vital bananas and coffee exports. Crime is mostly petty but a tourist kidnap and one or two attacks on tourist groups have the Government worried. Gun-toting police are in evidence. A drugs problem is linked to financial corruption.

That said, you are undoubtedly far safer on holiday in Costa Rica, among its friendly people, than in many parts of Europe or North America. Get away from the capital, San José, a hot, smelly, traffic-jammed, architectural atrocity, and there is little hassle.

We spent our first week on pre-arranged excursions. If we had known what we were in for we would have balked. We were up before six o'clock each morning to be whisked to our daily destiny, always in the essential 4x4 vehicle.

We took in Cartago, the old colonial capital, and Irazú, the country's highest volcano at 11,265ft, with its weirdly impressive moonscape appearance. Our road to Turrialba



Richly coloured iguanas roam the spectacular landscape

was a mixture of ruts, boulders and mini-craters.

We were warmly welcomed at our mountain lodge berth but our high-altitude night was bitterly cold. Our ride to the top of Turrialba's extinct volcano offered panoramic views of breathtaking beauty above the cloud forest.

White-water rafting on the formidable, rain-swollen Pacuare river meant 20 miles of rocks, rapids and turbulent

rushing water to navigate, all a bit much for beginners. Several tourists went overboard from our little convoy of rafts. We made it, soaked, exhilarated — and mightily relieved.

A small canopied launch took us 50 scenic miles through jungle waterways to Tortuguero, on the humid Caribbean coast. We goggled at howler and spider monkeys,

Continued on next page.

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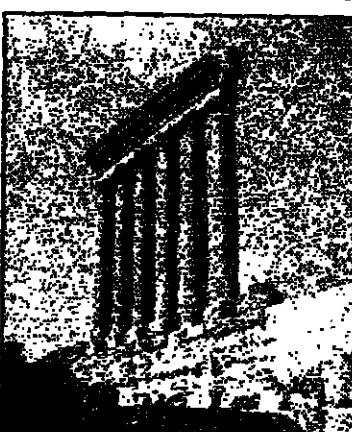
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FROM BAALBECK TO PALMYRA

Our newly inaugurated flight from London Gatwick to Damascus enables us to offer a comprehensive visit to two of the most important countries of antiquity in the Middle East, which have been little-visited in the recent past. The Syrian section of the itinerary takes in the famous sites of Damascus, Crac des Chevaliers and Palmyra whilst in Lebanon we visit both the ancient sites of Baalbeck and Palmyra together with a restful two-night stay at Anis on Lebanon's Corniche. This is without doubt a wonderful opportunity to visit some of the world's most interesting sites.

We reach Damascus in the evening and spend the first night in the oldest living city in the world and the Islamic capital under the Omayyads. Exploration of the city has to be on foot, navigating the tortuous alleys of the old city is wonderful. Palmyra is a very special place — the city has colonnaded streets and monumental arches but is perhaps most well known for the Temple of Baal. The Lebanese are proudly aware that they stand at a historic crossroads. Behind them lie two decades of violence that claimed thousands of lives and brought the country's economy, its shattered capital, suburbs and towns, and even its people, to the edge of anarchy. In front of them is the Lebanon's prized reputation as the Middle East's market place and the quintessential travel destination.

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valiers, enter Lebanon for Anis (2 nts). Day 5 Visit Tripoli, Becharreh and the Cedars. Day 6 Visit Byblos and Beirut. Continue to Zahle (2 nts). Day 7 Baalbeck. Day 8 Return to Damascus for the flight to Gatwick.

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TRAVEL

17

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Princess who won't be weather-beaten

She is big, beautiful... and runs rings round Fidel Castro. The lady in question is the epitome of capitalism, oozing Italian style and brash American wealth: she is the *Sun Princess*, the largest cruise liner in the world.

When you first set eyes on her for the week's cruise — which departs from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to circle Cuba en route to the Bahamas, Jamaica, Grand Cayman and the Mexican island resort of Cozumel — the liner looms so massive from the quayside that she seems more like a de luxe New York apartment block than anything which could possibly put to sea.

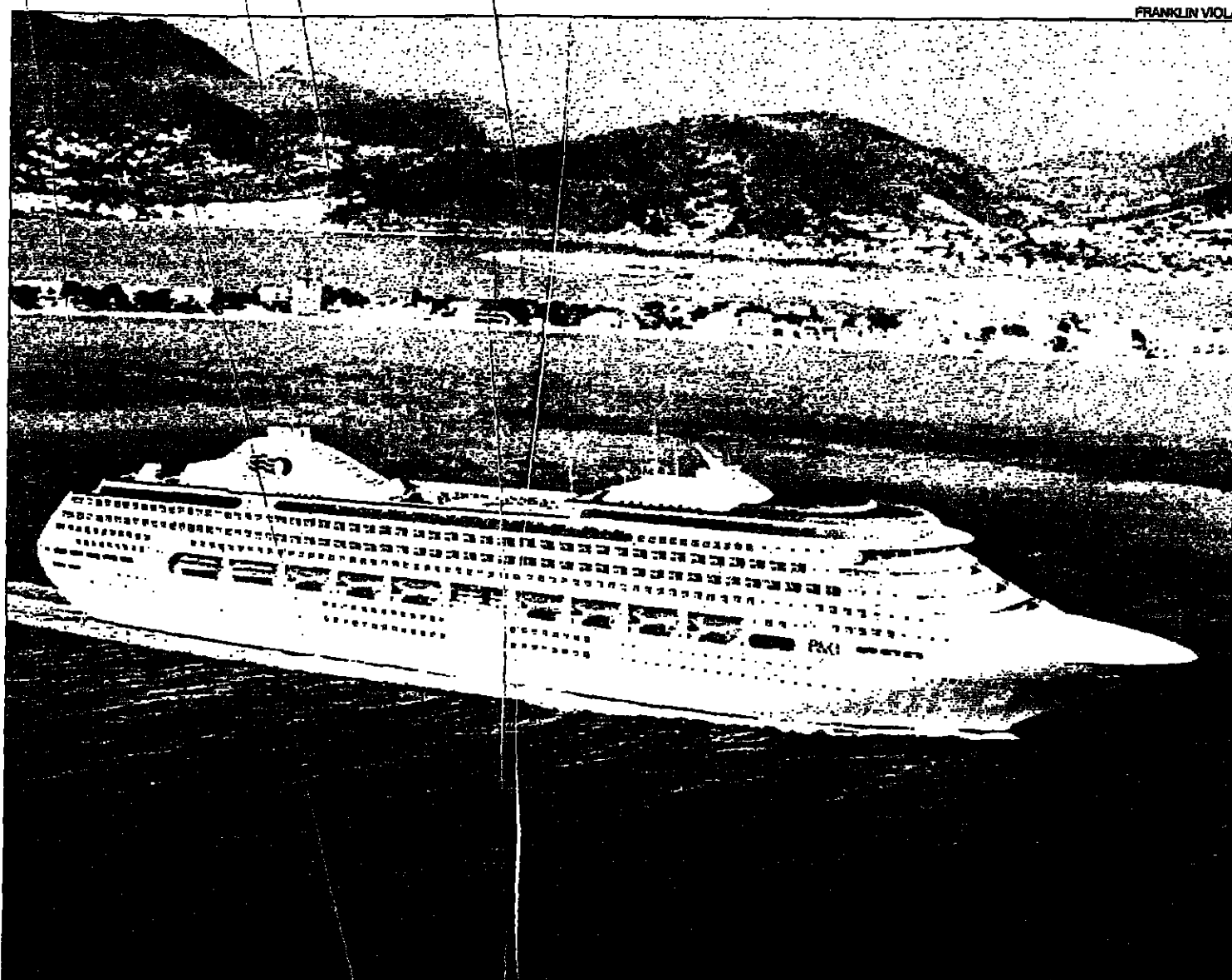
Yet put to sea she does, to a rowdy fanfare of hooting and cheering, complete with all the superlatives you might expect — taller than Nelson's Column, enough electric cables to reach from London to Moscow, enough carpets to cover all but two miles of the London marathon route.

The \$300 million (£188 million) P&O *Sun Princess* also carries enough food to make a serious dent in the shortages felt by Cuba's siege-economy islanders, with 600 dozen eggs, 1,500 steaks and 2,000 pounds of pasta consumed by the ship's 1,950 passengers every day.

The Saturday we set sail, the citrus growers of Florida were railing against some of the coldest weather on record, which dragged its coat-tails across the Caribbean. A chilly wind whipped the legs of the optimistically shorts-clad cruise passengers, while a steel band did its best to evoke a tropical atmosphere in the unseasonable cold.

Next morning dawned grey and drizzly, as did the next and the next. As a result, we had to rely on the ship's recreational facilities far more than we would have done had the sun been shining. The first port of call, Princess Cays, a secluded bay on the Bahamian island of Eleuthera, would have been heavenly in the heat, but it was a bit like Hounston on a bad weekend in the gloom.

Most passengers queued for almost an hour to take one of the *Sun Princess's* motorised launches for the choppy trip to Princess Cays, wandered forlornly for an hour or two around the only eatery and bar in sight — Hard Rock Café do not eat your heart out, this is the sort of barbecue most village fêtes could manage to outdo — then queued again for the crossing back to the comparative comfort and



Built for pleasure: the *Sun Princess's* route includes Cuba, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Grand Cayman and Cozumel in Mexico

warmth of the ship. Hardly anyone spent the entire day ashore.

But all this did not mar the marine dream because the *Sun Princess* seems to be one of the few liners which can keep its customers satisfied even on the rare occasions when the weather is poor. Holiday-makers from rival cruise ships whom we met during visits ashore said they felt the service and facilities aboard their vessels were not good enough to make up for the lack of sunshine.

The *Sun Princess* tries to treat its passengers like royalty. There is a canny mixture of space and intimacy, of marbled splendour and relaxed, casual nooks. There is

plenty to do for those feeling energetic and a myriad secluded corners indoors and out for reading and dozing.

Activities include concerts in two full-sized theatres, on-board shops, gym, tennis courts, Jacuzzis, while our favourite places were the library-cum-reading room, which would do most London gentlemen's clubs proud, and a wood-paneled games room with enough board games and bridge lessons to keep the most cerebrally-oriented occupied. All this as well as a swimming pool and two splash pools.

All the food you could possibly

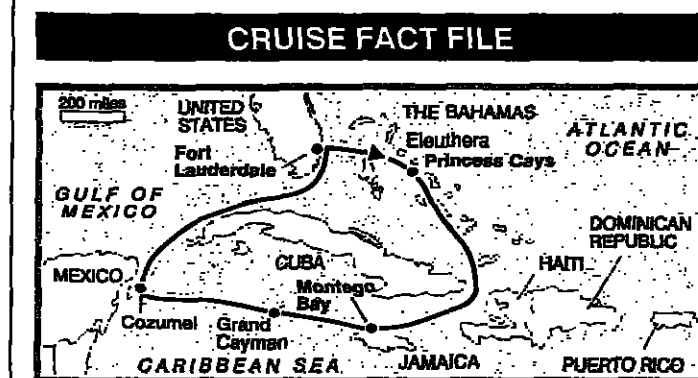
eat, available 24 hours a day, is included in the price. The *Sun Princess* has two main dining rooms for formal meals, both regal salons with spill-level areas which mask any impression of mass feeding even though 1,000 are catered for at a time. There is also a bistro and a pizzeria on this largely Italian-crewed vessel. And if night starvation should still strike, room service is always available in the immaculately kept cabins, which are cleaned twice a day.

There is enough booze aboard to keep a battleship afloat, though the purser says that many holidaymakers, especially Americans, spend the entire week afloat without

spending a penny. For the more hedonistic, there are indoor and deckside bars as well as a late-night disco.

After a day swinging around the eastern and southern coasts of Cuba, with the pinpricks of meagre communist electric lights visible from the liner relieved by the brilliant glare of the American military base of Guantanamo, we arrived at a rain-sodden Montego Bay in Jamaica.

In the sun, which must be almost guaranteed most of the time, the organised trips ashore would be tempting — visits to a plantation house or a climb up a spectacular waterfall. But the downpour pro-



■ The author was a guest of Princess Cruises.

■ The Tropical Mix cruise aboard the *Sun Princess* costs from £1,045 for nine nights. A saving of £250 can be made by booking at least 60 days in advance. Booking: 0171-800 2468.

■ Special offer to readers of *The Times*: Book a *Sun Princess Caribbean Cruise* between October 1996 and April 1997 through Thomas Cook Direct and save from £100 to £500 off the full brochure fare and get a cabin upgrade. For further details, and to book, telephone Thomas Cook Direct on 01733-335509, quoting reference CR01. Bookings must be made before April 30, 1996, to qualify.

■ Best time to travel: the coolest and driest months are December to April. May, June, October and November are wet, although tropical showers can occur year-round. Although hurricanes are

rare, if they do occur, it is usually in September.

■ Cruise tips: most cruises are much more casual than they used to be, although there are usually one or two formal evenings to cater for when packing, which can involve more luggage than other package holidays. However, careful packing is needed because many cruises involve flights to an embarkation port and airlines limit passengers to one or two suitcases and one piece of hand luggage.

■ Take binoculars to enjoy the best views from the cruise liner when passing close to shore. It is also advisable to take high-factor sun creams and lotions because cooling sea breezes can be deceptive and the sea and ship decks reflect the sun back in your face.

■ Reading: *Cruises* (£7.95) and *Caribbean Cruising* (£7.99), both published by Thomas Cook.

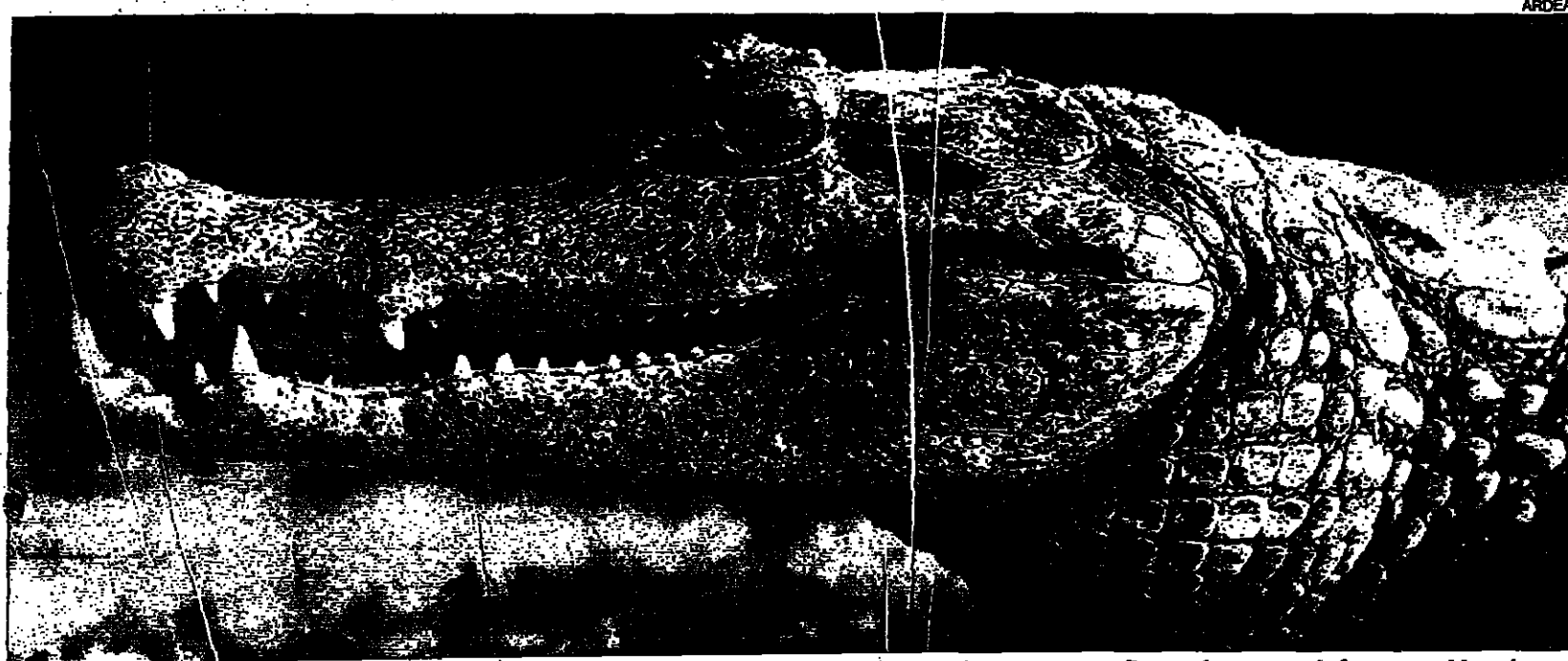
vided an opportunity to hire a car and driver to explore Jamaica's interior on what turned out to be Bob Marley Day — the birthday of the late Rasta idol. Jamaicans in every roadside shack selling beer and rum listened with hushed reverence as Bob's mum opined about her loner son and the sort of food he used to like. At least we returned to the ship drier than the tour parties who went waterfall climbing in the rain.

Day four brought Grand Cayman, such a pristine and wealthy island that four weather is probably forbidden under an old colonial by-law. The sun finally appeared but the wind was still having none of

this holiday lark, and a highlight snorkelling trip to frolic with stingrays was abandoned after a few seconds' assessment of the heavy swell whipping up the sea over the coral reef.

The *Sun Princess's* passengers finally experienced something approaching tropical heat on the final stopover in Mexico before heading north for Florida again. Toluca and Cozumel lie at the heart of the Mayan Indian culture, which reached its height more than 1,000 years ago. The magic of its past is imprinted in the stones of its temples and villages.

EVE-ANN PRENTICE



Costa Rica is rich in natural beauty — from its birds and animals, such as this spectacled cayman, to fiery volcanoes, rainforests and beaches

Continued from page 16
crocodiles and caymans, green lizards and iguanas, river turtles and a remarkable variety of bird life.

The star turn was a sloth, hanging by his toes in a riverside bush and munching

nonchalantly on green leaves edged within touching distance.

Tortuguero, on the Caribbean coast and accessible only by boat or plane, is an isolated settlement. Turtles nest on its beaches in season. We stayed

at the delightful Manati Lodge, where Lilia Figuli's river shrimps in garlic butter were mouthwatering.

We saw umpteen colourful toucans, the handsome and glossy, green-backed, red-bellied trogon, flycatchers and humming birds. Beautifully hued butterflies fluttered everywhere.

A pre-breakfast boat trip through the dense rainforest brought more wildlife sightings, including the turkey-sized great caracaras, a rare bird threatened with extinction.

I drove a hire car for our second week, not without trepidation. But, potholes apart,

driving was no hardship, even though temperatures often soared into the 90s.

We headed for the Nicoya peninsula on the Pacific coast, lounged at the small resort of Tamarindo and, again by moonlight, watched with incredulity as baby leatherback turtles, hatched from eggs buried 2ft down in the sand, pushed their way to the surface and headed instinctively for the ocean.

At Nosara, the unoccupied beach was idyllic. We bathed in the warm ocean and watched flight after flight of pelicans soar overhead in orderly V-formation.

It was a long but worthwhile drive through fertile farmlands back to the mountains and Arenal, with its lake and nearby relaxing hot springs.

Verdict: Costa Rica proved to be a great place for a holiday. But the developers are moving in. North Americans, in particular, are increasingly buying land and building retirement homes and condominiums. Tourism is now the country's top earner, well ahead of bananas and coffee.

I suggest that you get there sooner rather than later.

JOHN GRANT

HOW TO GET TO COSTA RICA AND LOCAL DETAILS

■ The author travelled with Sunvil Holidays (0181-568 4499) and flew from London to Costa Rica with Iberia International Airways (0171-830 0011), changing first at Madrid, and then Miami for San José.

■ Other airlines flying to Costa Rica include KLM (0181-750 9000) and American Airlines (0181-572 5555). Return fares from Heathrow start at about £953, but vary depending on the departure date chosen.

■ Sunvil Holidays offers a two-week, fly-drive package, including a bed and breakfast (full board for on-foot-town excursion days during first week), car hire and insurance for two people from about £3,700.

■ Other companies offering holidays to Costa Rica include Jules Verne Voyages (0171-616 1000), Journey Latin American (0181-742 7320), Reef and Rainforest Tours

(01803 866965) and Explore Worldwide (01252 319445).

■ Weather: it rains most of the year on the Caribbean coast, mainly in the afternoons. Elsewhere, December to April is regarded as the dry season — but you should expect the unexpected.

■ Local currency: colones (around 285 to the pound). Dollars, dollar cheques and credit cards are all acceptable.

■ No visa needed for British passport holders.

■ Medical: jabs for typhoid, polio and hepatitis A, and malaria tablets are recommended but check with your GP.

■ Restaurants, mostly serving French-style food, and bars are to be found in most areas. Hotel prices are not cheap by the usual standards of a developing country. Petrol is cheap, about £1.30 a gallon.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from Page 23

HONDA

(c) The eye at the end of a lasso through which the rope passes to form a loop. Western US from the Wild West and the Spanish *honda* a sling. "Honda is the loop plaited in the end of a rope to make a running noose. Also the metal grommet or thimble inserted in that loop."

MORAN

(c) The warrior group of the Masai tribe which comprises the younger unmarried males, also *il-moran*. The Masai designation. "Their hair is allowed to grow, and as soon as it has grown long enough to plait, they are called *il-moran* (warriors)."

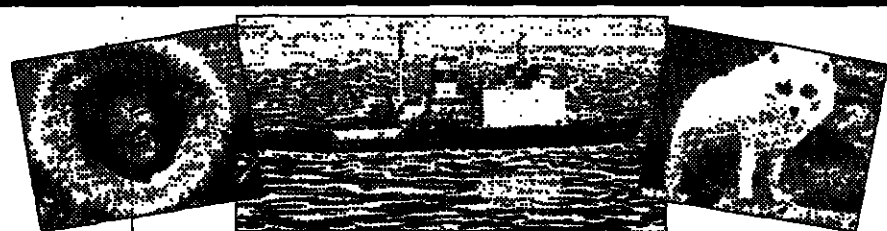
NARC

(b) A federal, state, or local narcotics agent. US slang. An abbrev. of *narcotic*. "Bo, a rookie detective, is so confused by the Department's manipulations that he doesn't guess that she is an undercover narc."

KELPIE

(a) A smooth-coated, prick-eared, Australian sheep-dog, which may be black, black-and-tan, blue, or red. First bred from imported Scottish collies about 1870. An eponym from an early specimen of the breed. "Lassie was, like all Kelpies, highly strung, with brains under her broad, thin-boned skull."

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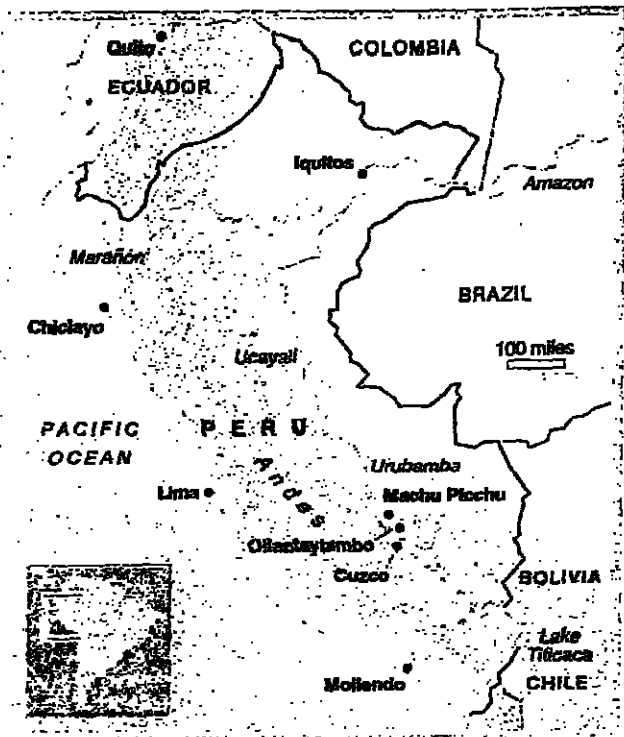
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The atmospheric Machu Picchu, the Lost City, was abandoned by the Incas before the Spanish arrived. The complex contains immaculate temples, palaces and houses

Two things about Peru are inescapable — the awe-inspiring peaks of the Andes and a dysfunctional past.

From the Cuzco Valley, high in the Cordillera, the Incas ruled an empire stretching from what is now Colombia to central Chile. It was a complex, advanced society until Francisco Pizarro arrived in 1532 at the head of a Spanish army. Emperor Atahualpa, radiant in gold befitting his descent from the Sun, came to meet him in peace. Instead, he was seized by the *Conquistadores* and his execution marked the beginning of three centuries of domination by Spain.

Pizarro's perfidy is still spoken of as if it happened yesterday and there are visible tensions between the native Indians and those of Spanish descent. The slaughter of the Indians was on a genocidal scale and their descendants

show grim satisfaction when they point out Pizarro's remains, displayed in a plain coffin in Lima Cathedral with a separate box for his head. The unfortunate man was assassinated by natives in 1541. The conquest took 30 years of bloody fighting. A rebellion failed in 1572 and the last rising was as late as 1780, not long before the 19th-century war of liberation from Spain.

Cuzco city is an hour's flight from Lima. The Spanish destroyed the Inca capital but built their own churches and palaces on the same foundations. Thus a Dominican friary stands on the remains of the Temple of the Sun, and there are walls of Inca stonework, each massive block crafted to perfection, shoring up supermarkets and discos in side alleys. The Incas were master masons but never discovered either the wheel or writing, so there are no historical records and much of their way of living remains a mystery. Outside Cuzco, the valley is littered with more substantial Inca remains: temples, baths, aqueducts and the towering fortress at Ollantayambo. The most dramatic site is Machu Picchu, the Lost City mythologised as the El Dorado of the Andes. It stands on a small plateau, surrounded by mountains swirling in cloud, and has been abandoned since before the Spanish came. No one knows why.

As a result, Machu Picchu was not destroyed by Pizarro and remained lost until archaeologist Hiram Bingham stumbled on it in 1911. Now it is Peru's premier attraction: a stunning complex of perfectly preserved temples, palaces and neat houses. Their thatched roofs have gone, but otherwise the Incas might have moved out last year.

In the main temple, the altar is carved with a human outline, and there is a drain at its feet for sacrificial blood. Perhaps the offering had the right effect for the atmosphere is magically peaceful, particularly at sunrise: a place of deep stillness, broken only by the rush of the river below. For impact, it matches the Taj Mahal or the Pyramids.

To get there involves a three-hour journey from Cuzco by tourist train with an armed police guard (the government is still nervous about the remnants of the Shining Path guerrillas). At the end, a four-mile track zigzags up the mountainside — minibuses charge £1.30 for the journey, admission to the site is £6.60. An alternative approach is the slower local train to a halfway point and then the Inca Trail through the mountains. But this is serious walking at high altitude, three days carrying your tent and food.

The Machu Picchu Ruins Hotel is right by the site — and expensive at £115 a night for a double. But there are plenty of cheap places to stay at Aguas Calientes, 2km back down the railway, and there is a campsite by the station. Leaving aside the Inca legacy, life in the villages and countryside is picturesque but painfully poor — often mud-brick shacks with no electricity, running water or sanitation. The grazing llama and alpaca have a melancholy look, but their owners, wrapped in traditional rainbow-coloured ponchos, are friendly. Their markets are a good place to buy an alpaca blanket or sweater.

International flights mostly go to Lima, founded by Pizarro on the narrowest of coastal

visible in churches on every corner, a vast Franciscan monastery and the austere cathedral on Plaza de Armas. If you have time for only one museum, Enriquez is your man. Mr Pol arrived from Italy 47 years ago and has never returned. His private collection includes artefacts dating as far back as 300 BC — magnificent gold from the Inca period and later religious art.

The collection is housed in his home at Lord Cochran 466 in the suburb of Miraflores. Admission is by appointment (phone 4222437) and for £6.50 he shows you round personally.

Eating out is inexpensive and can be excellent: broadly Spanish with some spicy local dishes. Dinner with wine at a local restaurant in the Cuzco valley costs £4 a head, while eating under the stars at La Ermita in Lima's Barranco equals the best of Mediterranean seafood and atmosphere, for about £12.

Peru is not for the faint-hearted. Transport can be head-bangingly unreliable, and theft on the streets is rife in Lima, as is drug-pushing. But you can minimise problems by carrying your money in a body-belt and keeping on the beaten track.

Some, not always young, travellers backpack and see the country cheaply using buses. Haulage trucks also pick up passengers for a few Soles. A double room for a night in a pension costs about £4.50. For more comfort and predictability, it is best to arrange a package, covering flight, accommodation and internal travel through a specialist operator such as Journey Latin America or Kuoni.

MICHAEL HARTLAND



Young boys celebrate a religious festival in Cuzco

FACT FILE ON PERU

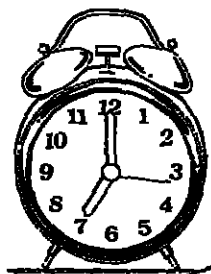
- The author was a guest of KLM and Journey Latin America.
- Flight only: KLM flies from Heathrow and 13 regional airports, via Amsterdam, to Lima. Booked through Journey Latin America from £545 (June-September 1995) 0481-747 3108.
- Packages: Journey Latin America, 14-15 Devonshire Road, London W4 2HD (0181-747 8315). 12 days including flights from £1,542. Kuoni Travel, Dorking, Surrey RH45 4AZ (01306 740888). 15 days including flights from £1,976. Bales Tours, Junction Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3HB (01306 885991). 16 days including flights from £2,399.
- As Peru is just south of the Equator, the only significant climatic difference is between the wet and dry seasons. The dry season (May to September) is obviously best for walking or trekking in the Andes.
- Useful reading: the *Lonely Planet Travel Survival Kit* for Peru, price £8.95.
- Health: vaccination for typhoid and, in some areas, malaria protection — consult your GP.

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Soaring buzz of first-time gliding

Lightning fractures the sky above Lasham and thunder rumbles around the airfield. We are grounded in the lecture room as Clive Thomas, a flying instructor, explains basic meteorology and the principles of rising air, the invisible force that holds gliders aloft. It is a morning for considering theory rather than flying. Who would want to be launched skywards on half a mile of steel wire in a thunderstorm? "The best lightning conductor in Hampshire," Mr Thomas says.

Other dangers threaten. Those black-based cumulus clouds overshadowing the airfield are citadels of violence, five miles high, perhaps, and filled with ice-laden, hurricane-force winds able to suck an aircraft into their centre and destroy it. There is a story about a German pilot who entered one of these grim fortresses in the hope of setting a new altitude record. When his glider started to disintegrate, he baled out, opened his parachute and overtook the remains of his aircraft - going up.

So much for high ambition. There are old pilots and bold pilots, the saying goes, but no old, bold pilots. On the airfield the gliders are tied down against the wind as pilots search the sky for the cues that will tell them the weather front is clearing. In that ability lies the essence of the sport: spotting those often subtle meteorological cues and accurately reading the sky. The fastest readers develop the quickest instinct and make the best pilots.

"I know of no other sport that has such a conjunction of man and nature, where the glider becomes an extension of you and you become an extension of the air around you. It is silent and graceful and, when things go right, a sublime buzz," one pilot replies when I ask him why he is so enthusiastic about being jerked into the air without an engine.

Gliding is the most well-established of the aerial wind sports, which have sub-divided into paragliding, hang-

gliding, parascending, sky-diving and parachuting. However slender the aircraft may look, in the air they are immensely strong.

By the afternoon the weather front has moved away and the sun breaks through. The ground starts to heat up and generate bubbles of warm air which rise in thermals and condense into dumpy, cotton-wool clouds.

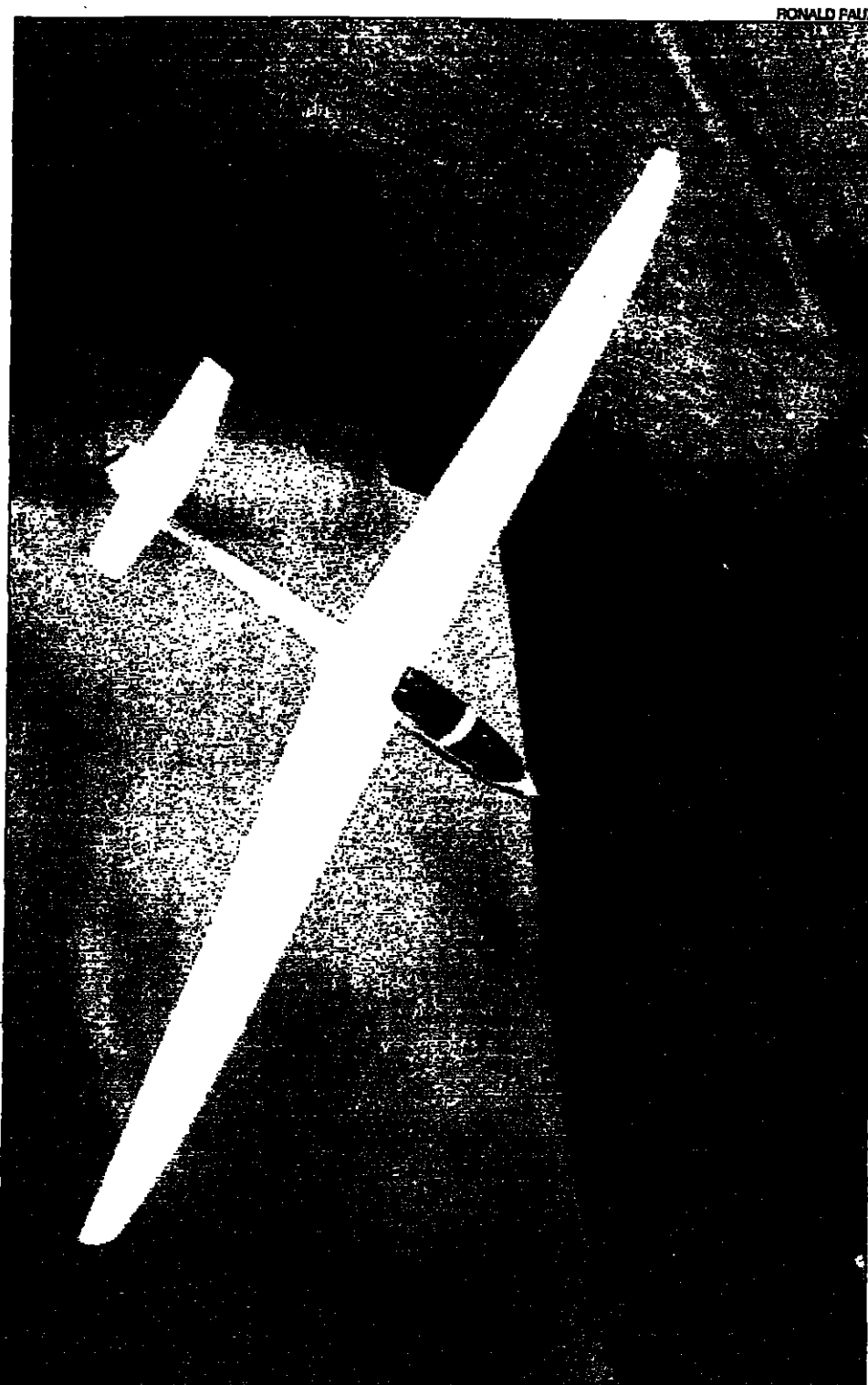
We strap ourselves into the narrow cockpit of the K13 trainer, check the controls as the tow cable is hooked to the keel. The distant winch takes up the tension and then hauls us steeply into the air. We climb faster than the Space Shuttle, according to Mr Thomas. At 1,400ft we arrive directly above the winch and the nose starts to dip. I release the cable and the glider settles on the wind, the only sound being the rush of air over the 50ft span of wings.

Ahead, a cloud with a base the colour of a bruise looks promising. Another glider is already circling beneath it. We approach and feel the patch of rough air that is the precursor of a healthy thermal and seconds later the left wingtip is jolted upwards.

"Go now," Mr Thomas says, and I thrust the glider into a steep left bank, trying to coordinate feet and hands so that the turn is smooth and we do not skid out of the thermal, an invisible cone of lift which is drifting with the wind. We are trying to track the narrow lower core so the horizon is spinning wildly. The instruments indicate that we are climbing 700ft a minute.

The wider reaches of the thermal require flatter turns and at 3,200ft mist spatters the canopy, signalling that we have reached the point where our thermal is condensing into cloud. The first glider has already headed away in search of more rising air and beneath us another slim pair of wings have begun to climb the same winding escalator that we have taken.

Thermals are only one of the "engines" a glider may use.



Another glider starts to climb the thermal escalator that the writer has just taken

They can cruise for hours in the ridge lift created when wind accelerates up the face of a cliff or, more spectacularly, climb into the stratosphere using the air currents that cannot in waves from mountain ranges. The world record altitude reached in a glider is more than 46,000ft.

The basic course at Lasham avoids such lofty heights. There are three of us students in Mr Thomas's care and the next will be waiting to fly. Nose down and tail up we are soon in the circuit 800ft above the airfield.

Even the basic training gliders are so aerodynamic they will lose only one foot of height for every 40ft of forward flight. High performance gliders, the albatrosses of the sport, stretch this glide angle to

60ft for the loss of only one vertical foot.

"Some days you get the impression they just don't want to come down," Mr Thomas says. To neutralise this inclination to float for ever more, I pull on the air brakes and couple of small steeplechase hurdles spring from the wings. There is a roar as the smooth airflow is broken and the glider stops floating and starts falling.

We turn steeply into wind and ahead the landing area is clear. Just as well: we are now in the grip of Newton's law without an option.

The glider's skid drops gently into the grass and we slide smoothly to a halt. The lesson is over.

RONALD FAUX

Literary double act on fictional facts

If you're the kind of person who spends more time deciding which books to take on holiday rather than which clothes, Bloom Reading Holidays will sound like bliss: a week in a rural retreat with nothing to do but read books, talk books, eat and drink, and enjoy the countryside. A reading list around which discussions will be based is provided, so you needn't even worry which books to take.

We gathered on a Monday night at Ty Newydd (the New House) in the small village of Llanysumdwy, near Cricieth, north-west Wales. Ty Newydd was the last home of David Lloyd George, whose grave is beside the tree-lined lane that leads from the house to the village. His resting place, marked by a large and simple lichen-covered stone, looks over the Dwyfor river.

Ty Newydd today is more usually filled with writing courses, though it was emphasised from the start that we were on a holiday, not a course. Over supper we met the week's two writers: Beryl Bainbridge and Bernice Rubens. They have taught at writing courses together so often that they form a regular double act, a kind of literary Morecambe and Wise.

After supper they were keen to discover who we were and what had brought us there. Anne was an academic, prone to skim-reading to get at the facts; she wanted to learn to read fiction more slowly. Sue and Jean were regular visitors to the Dartington Literature Festival in Devon, and liked the idea of lengthier contact with two of their favourite authors, while Carole, a psychologist, said she wanted more direction in her reading; the course, she said, sounded like fun.

Fun it was, with Rubens revealing that she likes Mills and Boon, and wondering why there was no porn on the recommended reading list. "Pornography is interesting, I found a copy of *The Well of Loneliness* under my mother's mattress, so naturally I read it at once. If it's under a mattress it has to be interesting."

She offered other thought-provoking comments: "I don't think writers improve after their first book. I think writing is the only thing which practice doesn't make perfect."

As the discussion shifted to *Wuthering Heights* and the smouldering Heathcliff, Carole brought her psychologist's experience to bear and insisted: "*Wuthering Heights* has a lot to answer for. It does not lead to good relationships."

Bainbridge wondered if

memory of Bainbridge whistling for a cab and stepping into it for *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Sessions were held in Ty Newydd's library, which looks out over lawn and cow pastures down to the sea, a ten-minute walk away. To the left lay the cliffs beyond Cricieth, and one afternoon I walked along the beach to where a colony of cormorants and a solitary heron stood in the breaking waves.

As I walked I was mentally composing the list of Top Ten books we had all been asked to present to the group. I was astonished that writers I considered comparatively lightweight, such as Margaret Drabble and Susan Hill, appeared in some people's lists of all-time greats, while other lists reminded me to re-read Thomas Hardy and to read Brian Keenan's *An Evil Cradling*.

At the start of the week I had two thoughts: first, that it would be a relaxing break of book talk, and second, that at the end of it I could put aside the reading list and get back to my own choices. The first thought proved true, but the second was hopelessly optimistic.

I returned home with a love of reading renewed, and a list as long as a Booker judge's: *Beloved*, *Lie Down in Darkness*, *Crossing the River*, *Herzog*, *Return of the Native*, *What's Bred in the Bone*, *Wuthering Heights*... And a realisation that I now needed a Reading Year, not just a Reading Week.

MIKE GERRARD

● The author was a guest of Bloom Reading Holidays. Courses in 1996 include Stan Barrow and Diana Griffiths at Ty Newydd (May 27-June 2) and, at Meadowhead House in Scotland, Carol Cleveland and Jim Friel (July 30-Aug 4), Barbara Trapido and Ian Crichton (Aug 5-11), and Lesley Glaister and Mark Illis (Oct 21-27). The cost is £325 full board.

● Details from Bloom Reading Holidays, 22 West Craft, Ratho, Midlothian EH12 5PB (0131-333-4547). Details of writing courses at Ty Newydd on 01766 532811 (fax 01766 525445).

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Readers share their experiences of the hard-sell tactics used by some timeshare operators



Madeira, the island where Jack Henfrey and his wife were impressed by a salesman's presentation of a new timeshare complex and put down a £500 deposit. A decision they were to regret

Beware the timeshare trap

Charles Dodd, of Calne, Wiltshire, responded to a telephone survey on holidays two months ago. A few days later he was phoned again by a man representing an advertising agency and told he had won a seven-day, luxury holiday for two in the Canaries, the Balearic islands or Portugal. The holiday was his on condition that he and a partner attended a two-hour timeshare presentation in Exeter.

"Confident of our ability to withstand the blandishments of a timeshare salesperson, my partner and I decided to risk the trip," Mr Dodd writes. On a Saturday later that month, Mr and Mrs Dodd presented themselves at offices in Exeter. They were shown details of developments in the Canaries (the only holiday location offered to them) and informed about timeshare properties. The saleswoman then told them that "if we wanted to go ahead with the purchase, we had to sign up and pay the deposit before we left. After that the offer is gone," she said. "There is no second chance... You can't go away and think about it, you have to make a decision now." Mr Dodd decided to leave without making a purchase.

He has been offered a holiday but it will not be free. "The saleswoman must have meant that the price was a one-off offer," says Diana Hanks, consumer services manager of The Timeshare Council (TTC), the official UK body for the timeshare industry. If Mr Dodd had agreed to a purchase at the presentation, he could still have gone away and thought about it. "According to the Timeshare Act, 1992, there is a mandatory cooling-off period of 14 days, during which the purchaser may withdraw from the agreement," Ms Hanks says.

Similar cooling-off periods

also exist in France, Portugal and the United States, and are under discussion in the Canary Islands. The rest of Europe will be covered by the European Timeshare Directive, scheduled for April 1997, which calls for a cooling-off period of ten days and for measures to prevent the sellers receiving any advance payments in this time.

Until this is implemented, however, some timeshare companies are trying to take advantage of grey areas within the law. Madeira, for example, has provided some tricky cases where, although the potential buyer has with-

drawn within 14 days, the timeshare company has returned only part of the deposit and withheld the remainder to cover administration costs.

Jack Henfrey and his wife, who live in Cambridge, were on holiday in Madeira last May. They were impressed by a salesman's presentation of a new village timeshare complex near Funchal and put down a £500 deposit. Although the salesman had insisted the money had to be paid that day, the couple had been reassured by his explanation that, "we had nothing to lose, for we had a fortnight's cooling-off period, during

which time we could pull out and all monies paid would be refunded". Some days later, the Henfreys paid a second deposit of £545, which wasn't due until September 1995. "During the following days, we naturally had some queries, but then found it was never possible to meet the salesman to discuss them," Mr Henfrey says.

When the couple finally received a note to confirm details for a proposed visit in January 1996, "The figures bore no resemblance to the stories of cheap flights and accommodation open to members of the timeshare. My wife and I decided that we should pull out without delay."

They waited four hours for a meeting with the salesman. "We were bullied and told that we were out of the cooling-off period, that the salesman had confirmed this with the company lawyer and that the company that owned the timeshare group and many hotels in Madeira and Portugal were immensely wealthy and powerful."

After an exchange of solicitors' letters, the company acknowledges that the Henfreys were within the cooling-off period, but it is still withholding £315 of their money.

Although resorts in Madeira should come under Portuguese law, some claim to have chosen a separate Isle of Man jurisdiction, which allows them to retain a part of the deposit. Ms Hanks says that regulations should be in place at the end of July that will make it clear whether all or part of the deposit is refundable. Meanwhile, buyers should make sure that this point is explained before they hand over any money.

More than three million households own timeshares around the world, and most are apparently satisfied with their timeshare holidays. Many say that they would buy again, so these examples of determined salesmanship appear to be the experience of the few.

JEANNIE MCNEILL

Paris chic? Watch the French loaf

A new weekly column on the pleasures available just a rail journey away

TAKE any Sunday night Eurostar back from the Gare du Nord to Waterloo and you will hear British couples trippingly relating the intellectual ground covered in Paris — the Corot exhibition, the Louvre, the Opéra Bastille... they might as well have a big C for culture sewn on their coats. The once relaxing weekend abroad has become a terrifying instrument of enrichment.

I know this because we secretly give our guests in Paris a culture count when they appropriate our sofa-bed in the Rue du Bac. The highest rating so far was earned by two academic types who, in the space of 48 hours, saw a one-woman show inspired by the works of Simone de Beauvoir, the Musée d'Orsay, the Jeu de Pomme, a matinee of the latest Peter Brook play and a three-hour film in Serbo-Croat. They also deposited a

have raised *Le Lounging* to the height of chic.

Lounging is the lazy version of café society: it must be done in public with good friends and as little mental effort as possible. Conversation must be relaxed. Over-enthusiastic debates are frowned upon.

Le Lounge Club is the finest example of the genre in Paris. The long smoking-room-cum-lounge is painted midnight blue, with enormous leather Chesterfields and armchairs on a wooden floor. Its murky interior suits those conducting illicit affairs because you can barely see further than the bottom of *Le Long Drink*. Cocktails are much favoured and there is often a pianist, or CDs of Frank Sinatra, Paul Anka, Nat King Cole and cheesy Europop from the Fifties.

The owner, Patrick Derdier, says he wanted to create "une ambiance musicale très crooner".

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO



PARIS

by KATE MUIR

cheap house-plant on the grave of the Russian writer Zamyatin and had dinner in one of the oldest bistros by the Bastille. For this, they scored the full ten points.

Imagine then the delight at discovering what Parisians really do in London: "I recently took a return trip on the Eurostar," says a reader in the hip magazine *Nova*. "I spent the day in bed there with a friend watching British television and eating pizzas."

This kind of passive resistance, this valuing of consumption over cultural consumption, can only be admired. Why should there be an imperative to achieve while on holiday? I am not necessarily suggesting that visitors to Paris should remain in their hotels ordering from room service — this is only possible in the very early stages of a relationship — but there is a lot to be said for lounging around.

Much lounging inspiration has come from Britain, particularly the Living Room in Soho, where Londoners drape across sofas to a background of easy listening music. Similar establishments have opened in Paris — *Le Lounge Club* du Zebra Square and *Le Café de la Musique* — and

able habit of lounging has also meant a renaissance for the glorious bar of the Hotel Lutetia on the Left Bank. The womb-like room is panelled with mahogany in the style of a grand ocean liner, with an art deco painting of the *Lutetia* cruise ship. The margaritas, kirs and martinis are correctly executed and the chairs comfortable. The hotel is a time warp: it harboured the Gestapo in the war, was liberated by the Americans (among them Hemingway), and then housed refugees. Now it is lounge central. The Lutetia is in strolling distance of the Bon Marché department store and Prada on the Rue de Grenelle for those who wish to shop and shop.

It is uplifting to realise that Parisians recently learnt the art of slobbing around from Britain, just as the British learn about culture from France. This is one of the few successful exchange mechanisms in the European Community so far.

● *Lounge Club du Zebra Square*, 1 Rue de Boulainvilliers, 16th (open Thurs, Fri and Sat evenings). *Le Café de la Musique*, 213 Avenue Jean-Jaures, 19th. *Lutetia Hotel Bar*, Rue de Sevres at Babylone, 6th.

IF YOU are considering buying a timeshare, The Timeshare Council suggests that you follow these simple guidelines:

- Do your research: be sure you know what kind of timeshare you want and how much you can afford.
- Assess your commitment: sign the agreement only when you are sure it is what you really want. Some countries, such as Britain, give you a legal right to a cooling-off period. Find out what rights you have if you are not signing the agreement in the United Kingdom.
- Credit cards: remember, you cannot stop a credit-card payment. The bank is legally bound to honour your signed transfer slip.
- Read the print: make sure that any promises made to you are clearly shown in the printed agreement. This particularly applies to promises to

sell your existing timeshare if you buy a new one.

■ Get full details of your timeshare, showing your legal ownership rights and obligations, details of your management fees and the arrangements for an elected owners' committee.

All TTC members must operate within the council's code of conduct: this includes ensuring that buyers have secure occupancy rights and that satisfactory arrangements are in force to protect their money before completion of the property.

TTC provides an advisory and conciliation service free to those dealing with its members. For a free booklet, send an SAE to The Timeshare Council, 23 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6HB (0171-821 8845, fax 0171-828 0739).

The Department of Trade and Industry booklet on timeshare, *Your Place in the Sun*, is free from Citizens Advice Bureaux.

A world of entertainment on offer

Jill Crawshaw on Himalayan cycling tours and other holiday news and bargains

HARD GRAFT USA
THE US Travel and Tourism Association (USTTA) ceased to exist in this country on April 12. Instead, a new Visit USA Brochure Line (0891 600530, 49p a minute during peak time, 39p at other times) provides a brochure and recorded information service.

Using the number, it took me 11 minutes, at a cost of £4.29, to order a comprehensive fact-file and to write down at breakneck speed the UK phone numbers of the 28 American regions, from Arizona to Washington, offering either a brochure service or specific information lines.

PAY TO DRIVE
AUSTRIA is joining its Swiss neighbours by introducing motorway tolls from next year. Tourists wishing to use motorways and some Alpine passes will need to buy and display a "Kombi" ticket, valid for two months and costing Asch350, approximately £23.

FOR NIGHT BIRDIES
THE ULTIMATE for fanatics — long daylight hours and the midnight sun in June mean that round-the-clock golf is possible in Iceland. The Arctic Open Golf Tournament in Akureyri (June 26-29) actually starts at 8pm each evening. Icelandair (0171-388 5599) offer three-night packages with hotel B&B accommodation and flights from £375, plus \$300 (£155) to enter the Open, with unlimited golf and a gala dinner.

KEEP MOVING IN CORSICA
CORSICA specialists Voyages Ilena (0171-924 4440) are offering their June self-catering holidaymakers the chance to spend each night of their stay in a hotel in a different part of the island. A week costs from £362 for each member of a group of four, which also includes flights and car hire.

CUT-PRICE LONG-HAUL HOLIDAYS
HOLIDAYS to Kenya, Goa, Sri Lanka and the Caribbean will cost less than many similar packages to the Canary Islands, Cyprus and even the Spanish Coast next winter. Thomson Holidays (0171-707 9000) is offering two weeks' B&B in Goa from £439, Sri Lanka from £495 and two weeks' on Kenya's coast from £509 (£439 in May).

In the Caribbean, if you are prepared to self-cater, you can spend two weeks in Antigua for £499, in Jamaica for £525 or Barbados for £569. All-inclusive holidays in the Dominican Republic start at £525 for 14 days.

MISSISSIPPI MANSIONS
ANTIQUE dining tables, the best china and silver, plus traditional southern breakfast with mine host are promised at some of the 120 pre-Civil War plantation homes and Victorian mansions listed in the new *Mississippi Bed & Breakfast Guide* from the Mississippi Information Line (01462 440787). Many of the properties are listed buildings.

WORKING IN OZ
GOOD news for people under 27 wanting to work in Australia on holiday and recently refused working visas when the quota ran out: an extra 9,000 visas have been allocated until July 1, when the new increased annual quota of 42,000 comes into effect. Australian High Commission, 0171-379 4334.

IT'S NOT OVER
ADDICTS take heart — there should still be plenty of snow for a skiing holiday on the Stubai Glacier in



Pavarotti sings in the Caribbean

Austria for the Spring Bank Holiday, though conditions could get mushy in the afternoons. Alpine Tours (01227 454777) offer a week's B&B in Mieders from May 25, travelling by coach, and including lift pass and insurance.

GRAND PRIX
FOLLOW Damon Hill's (hopefully) triumphant progress towards the Grand Prix title with Motor Racing International (01304 612424), who cover all the events of the season. For the European Grand Prix at Nürburgring on April 28, a coach-tour quickie (out Saturday, back Monday morning) costs £69, plus £65-£250 for tickets to the race. Three rather more comfort-

able nights with B&B at a hotel in Koblenz and travelling by air, costs £369 plus tickets.

BIKE PIONEERS
KE ADVENTURE Travel (017687 73966) have permission from the Chinese Government for the first group to cross the Himalayas by mountain bike, starting in Pakistan, and travelling through Tibet down to Nepal, via the Kailas Mountain, one of the holiest mountains for Hindus and Buddhists. Holidaymakers need to be fit, though there's a support vehicle. The tour lasts from September 7 until October 6. The fully inclusive price is £3,495.

EARLY BOOKING
CARIBBEAN Connection (01244 341131) have tickets to the Barbados Opera Festival for Easter next year, with prices from £1,979 for seven nights with half-board at Tamarind Cove, including flights and tickets. Pavarotti sings on Easter Sunday (March 29) beneath the stars in the gardens of Holders Hill, a 17th-century former plantation house.

SPECIALIST BARGAINS
PLENTY of holiday bargains are currently available — even from small and specialist companies. Until July, Far East specialists, Premier Holidays (01223 516677) have cut the price of a seven-night half-board holiday to Sri Lanka to £495.

Chialia (0181-686 5533) offers self-catering apartments in Umbria until early May, reduced from £133 to £99, while Cadogan Holidays (01703 332661) have a reduction of £50 per person on holidays in Gibraltar. A seven-night stay until May 22 now costs £296, or £443 for a fortnight, with other reductions until the end of June.

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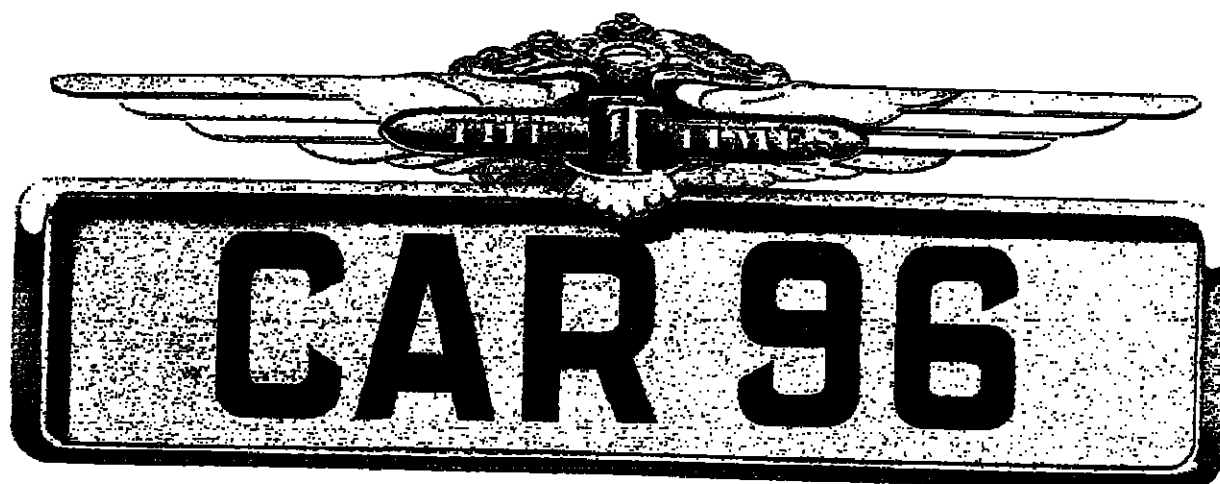
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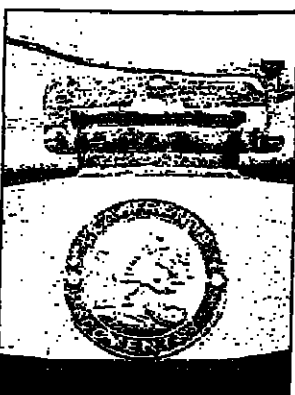
هلجوا من الامم



My other transport is the MGF with wings
Page 8



Tracing the tyre tracks of motoring history
Page 3



SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

This thing is bigger than both of us

For Marlboro Man, the Dodge Ram is fine. But Kevin Eason found it a little on the large side

There was only one way to end the squeal of rubber as the tyres scrubbed against the narrow kerbs: I turned the stereo up. After all, what is a man to do when he is trying to get a pick-up truck more than 7ft 9ins wide through a road less than 8ft across?

Exactly. Here was I detailed to test a vehicle normally driven by Marlboro Man and I had to get from one end of London to the other: I get streets built for Dinky toys; Marlboro Man had the whole of Arizona to go at.

This was like trying to squeeze the toothpaste back into the tube, only noisier... and in front of a bemused audience, for the Dodge Ram is not exactly a shy and retiring little vehicle, the sort you can discreetly park and walk away without anyone noticing. Park the Ram and most of the city knows about it: mothers send their children out to watch because it could be more entertaining than Power Rangers, more informative than Blue Peter, office workers take their tea breaks around its arrival and even traffic wardens send back to base for extra ink just in case they get the chance to write their all-time biggest ticket.

We are talking American here, as in BIG... VERY, VERY BIG; the sort of vehicle that takes a city block to turn and generates enough power to put the Space Shuttle into orbit. The mouthful of name badges said it all: this was a Dodge Ram 3500 V10 Magnum Laramie 3LT. You would need a long vehicle just to accommodate that much sticker space — and I had the Dodge Ram, which was not just as wide as the Grand Canyon, but 18½ft long and the best part of 7ft tall, counting the array of four floodlights on top of the cab.

There is no way the Ram would go into our local NCP, entertain a parking spot unless it was for two normal-sized vehicles or negotiate ordinary streets where a man on a bike becomes a major obstruction.

And under that bonnet was no clattering diesel, just an 8-litre V10 with 300 brake horse power — the equivalent of roping together three Escorts and lashing them to the giant red bodywork.

The Ram was built for the Great Outdoors, for the open skies and the long, straight roads of the mid-West — not the one-way system through Watford and the tortuous entrance to Sainsbury's car park.

Americans adore the Ram — in fact, they love all kinds of pick-ups. Pick-up trucks account for three of the five best-selling vehicles in the US this year. Number one in the sales charts is the Ford F-series, followed by the Chevrolet CK with the Dodge Ram at number five. Ford has sold 314,000

cars in the US this year but 488,000 pick-ups, and the story is the same for Dodge: 108,422 cars compared with 214,000 pick-ups, all hard-charging Rams. Compare that with little old Britain where the diminutive Ford Escort tops the sales charts followed by the tiny tot Fiesta.

But, according to the latest wisdom, Britain is ready for a new craze, a sales void which pick-ups like the Ram are ready to fill. Saloons begat hatchbacks which begat GTIs, then 4x4s and people movers, the latest Fad of the Day. Pick-ups could be next.

Peter Rawlinson, British public relations director for Chrysler, which owns Dodge, says: "Who knows? We would love to sell a vehicle like the Ram, and we have already had people ringing to try to buy this one. Pick-ups have been big in the US for a long time and it could be that the drivers who want leisure vehicles but want a change from the usual 4x4 or people mover might want to try a pick-up." Maybe... if it was just a

DODGE RAM
Price: £21,710.
Engine: Eight-litre, 20-valve V10, for 300bhp at 4,000rpm, 5-speed gearbox, 4-wheel-drive/low-ratio gearbox.
Performance: 0-60mph in about 8.5 seconds, top speed 112mph.
Fuel economy: There isn't any.
Equipment: Superlative stereo, cruise control, driver's airbag and enough lamps to floodlight Old Trafford.

little smaller. I mean, I approached the Ram in the best spirit, deciding to go native with the Marlboro Man look to fit the Marlboro Man's pick-up. I held my breath to get into a pair of tight blue jeans, put on a neat, checked lumberjack shirt and topped off with the 10-gallon hat and intimidating shades. Climbing the 2½ft on to the steel running board to get into the cab wearing the

tight jeans was a bit of a challenge (was Marlboro Man rendered impotent by his Levi's, I wonder), but once inside, the cabin — designed by Brit Trevor Creed — had plenty of hat room.

There might only be a cosy three-bench seat, but the steering wheel was as familiar as a car's, with buttons for cruise control, while the stereo was better than the one in my

living room. The manual gear shift was straight from a truck though and the gearing on first so low that I never used it. Town running usually needed only second or third, so great was the torque from the engine that comes straight out of Dodge's legendary Viper sports car.

All that power — and that sheer size... Yeah hah! (If I might quote the words of Clint

Eastwood, a popular character actor in films of the Wild West genre.) He would have whipped his saddle and kicked his spurs as the Ram left a trail of dust across the desert; I was off down the Holloway Road, and I started with the warnings of Rawlinson and his Chrysler crew ringing in my ears.

In the letter covering the loan of the vehicle, Rawlinson

made no bones about the fact that the Ram was a rarity in Britain and its power was not to be toyed with. "The cost of any abuse of the rear tyres will be passed to the journalist to whom the loan was made," I recalled as the Ram squeaked its way down that back lane behind the offices of *The Times*, rear wheels scrubbing along the narrow track.

At last on to the open road,

but Rawlinson's words, seared into my brain, fired me into reality like a shot from Colt 45: "Normally we say a vehicle can be replaced, it's the occupants that matter, but with the Ram we are willing to make an exception." Gulp.

A press of the throttle and the Ram surged forward, bouncing on its long suspension struts like a speedboat nosing into the waves. But the power came smoothly, pushing the huge truck into the rear view mirrors of drivers ahead who must have thought they were being trailed by Smoky and the Bandit.

All I needed now was the cactus and the red mountains, so I could pull up and survey the desert like Marlboro Man, grey smoke spiralling from the tip of my cigarette, my eyes squinting against the glare of the bright sun.

Actually I pulled my hat down against the drizzle as I parked against the hillocks of Hertfordshire and unwrapped a toffee. Maybe I should face the fact I'm just not cut out to be a Ram driver...



Rambo: the Dodge Ram 3500 V10 Magnum Laramie 3LT — crazy name, crazy car — generates enough power to put the Space Shuttle into orbit, but in a London street a man on a bike becomes a major obstruction



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AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● LONDON
A12 Eastern Avenue, Wandsworth. Construction of M11 link road continues, with eastbound reduced to single lane between the Redbridge roundabout and High Street.
A214 Leatherhead bypass. Kerbing and alteration work at junction with Kingston Road.
A310 London Road, Twickenham. Bridge reconstruction work between Crane Avenue and Cole Park Gardens.
A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks continue over Lea Valley viaduct.
A400 Tottenham Court Road. Resurfacing between Goodge Street and Grafton Way.
A501 Marylebone Road. Various restrictions around Baker Street and Great Portland Street junctions.

● SOUTH-EAST
M1 Bedfordshire. Lane closures northbound, between junctions 10 and 12.
A509 Buckinghamshire. Major roadworks on Wellesborough Road in Olney, at junction with Lavendon Road.
A35 Hampshire. Lane closures eastbound for roadworks between the Rushington roundabout and Redbridge Interchange.
A38 Hampshire. Bridge repairs at Wellow, north-west of Southampton.
A41 Hertfordshire. Roadworks on North Western Avenue near Dons roundabout.
A249 Kent. Major works at Stockbury roundabout west of Sittingbourne.
M25 Surrey. Two sections of widening work, with lane closures and contraflows between junctions 6 and 8 and 8 and 10.
A247 Surrey. Roadworks between Clondan Station and Clondan Park.

● SOUTH-WEST
M4/M5 Avon. Work on second Severn crossing continues, with restrictions around the Almondsbury & Aust interchanges, and also on the M5 around junction 18.
M5 Bristol. Lane closures in both directions between junctions 17 and 20 for strengthening of the Avonmouth Bridge.
A373 Devon. Temporary lights between Culmington and Keepers Cottage.
A381 Devon. Roadworks continue in Teignmouth between Salcombe Dip and Inverleigh Drive.
M5 Somerset. Contraflow at junction 23.

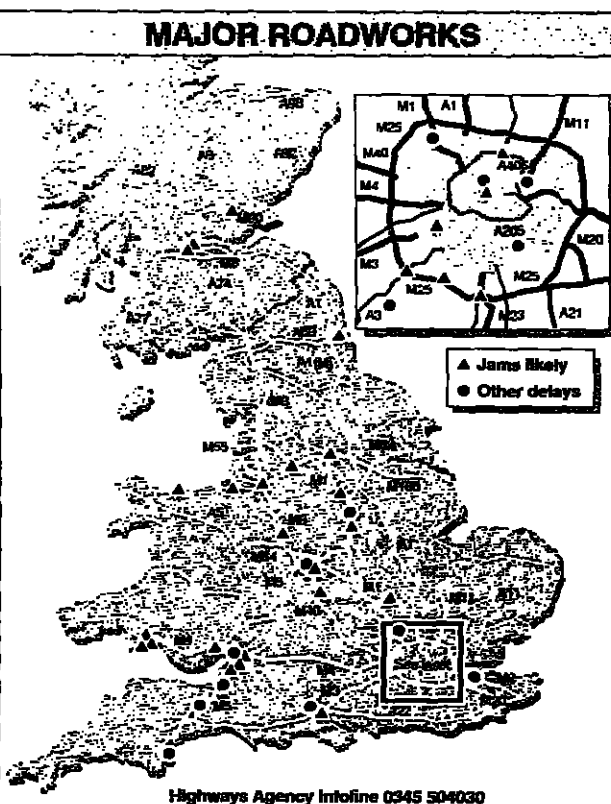
● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA
A6 Leicestershire. Major roadworks and contraflow at Lockington, between junction 24 of the M1 and Sawley Island.

M6 Staffordshire. North and southbound entry sliproads on to motorway closed at junction 11 for work on A460.
M1 Nottinghamshire. Off-peak lane closures in both directions at junction 25 due to the installation of lights on the entry/exit slip roads.
M40 Warwickshire. Various northbound hard shoulder restrictions between junctions 14 and 15.
A45 West Midlands. Slip road from Birmingham Road to The Midland Hill closed.
A4041 West Midlands. Contraflow on Newton Road for bridge rebuilding work.

● NORTH
M6 Cheshire. Widening work continues between junctions 20 and 21.
A5063 Greater Manchester. Major roadworks and lane closures on Treford Road near junction with Pomona Strand.
A630 South Yorkshire. Major roadworks and contraflow on the Rotherway at Canklow, between junction 33 of the M1 and Rotherham.
A167M Tyne-side. Northbound lane closures on Newcastle central motorway near Jesmond Road interchange for bridge repairs.
M1 West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow at end of motorway at junction 47.

● WALES
A550 Ceredigion. Narrow lanes and 40mph limit for construction of a new interchange. One lane closed southbound during the week between 9.30am and 3.30pm and on Saturdays between 9.30am and 1.00pm.
M4 Gwent. Widening work continues in connection with second Severn crossing between junctions 22 and 24.
A547 Gwynedd. Bridge repairs with lights near A55 junction at Llandudno Junction.
M4 South West Wales. Contraflow between junctions 45 and 46 for resurfacing work.
A48 West Glamorgan. Construction work with lane closures on all approaches to the Wychtree roundabout at Morriston.
A483 West Glamorgan. Major roadworks and contraflow on the Fabian Way, Swansea, between Elba Crescent and Earlswood lights.

● SCOTLAND
M8 Strathclyde. Lane restrictions westbound at junction 15. Carriageway is down to three narrow lanes, so long delays expected.
A77 South Ayrshire. Temporary lights in place for resurfacing work.
A749 Strathclyde. Dalmarnock Bridge. Glasgow closed southbound for repairs.
M90 Tayside. Major roadworks at junction 10 with lane closures in both directions.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Brit in charge

VAUXHALL gets its first British boss for the best part of a decade. Nick Reilly has taken over as chairman and managing director, succeeding two Americans and an Australian. Reilly, 46, was born in Anglesey and has worked in the US and Mexico for General Motors as well as running Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant on Merseyside.

Art with a capital E

SOME cars are born great and go on to be works of art, according to the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The museum just bought a 1963 blue Jaguar E-type, one of only three considered to be beautiful enough to be exhibited at one of the world's most famous temples to art. Terence Riley, curator, says he developed a "wish list" of cars — with the E-type at the top.

Halewood green

THE HALEWOOD plant on Merseyside, which makes Ford's Escort, is the first in the company's worldwide empire to win an award for its environmental work. Ford challenged its plants to clean up emissions and production processes but Halewood, which can make 1,000 Escorts a day, was first of the 150 factories around the world to qualify.

Daewoo price rise

DAEWOO prices have gone up, with the base Nexia GLI 3-door now at £8,795. The top-of-the-range Espero 2.0 CDXi is £12,995, although Daewoo says there are no "extras" to pay, such as delivery charges or number plates, while all cars come with a tank of fuel, a year's road tax and three-year/60,000-mile warranty.

Mitsubishi success

MITSUBISHI sales in Britain were up 50 per cent in March and are ahead 34 per cent so far this year over the same period of 1995, mainly thanks to the introduction of the new European-built Carisma range.

For a minor DIY service you now need a pile of microchips and the home telephone number of Bill Gates

An automatic waste of time

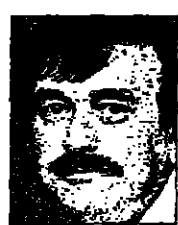
Many years ago, when the England cricket team still won occasionally, there arrived a defining moment in my relationship with gadgets. Nearly all men love them, and I am no exception, so the test of a useless gadget is when even a man exclaims: "What the hell is the point of that?"

In my case this exclamation followed the reading of a newspaper article which announced that the electric toothbrush had gone on sale in Britain. It contained a memorable quote from the manufacturers: "Our children will one day see ordinary toothbrushes in a museum and ask us what they were for."

Happily, this absurd prediction proved to be wide of the mark. But it came to mind one morning this week when, for the umpteenth time, I forgot to activate the automatic choke and my car's engine spat and spluttered, juddered and fell silent.

The automatic choke is a classic example of how the car industry treats its customers like children. Cars used to have a button that you

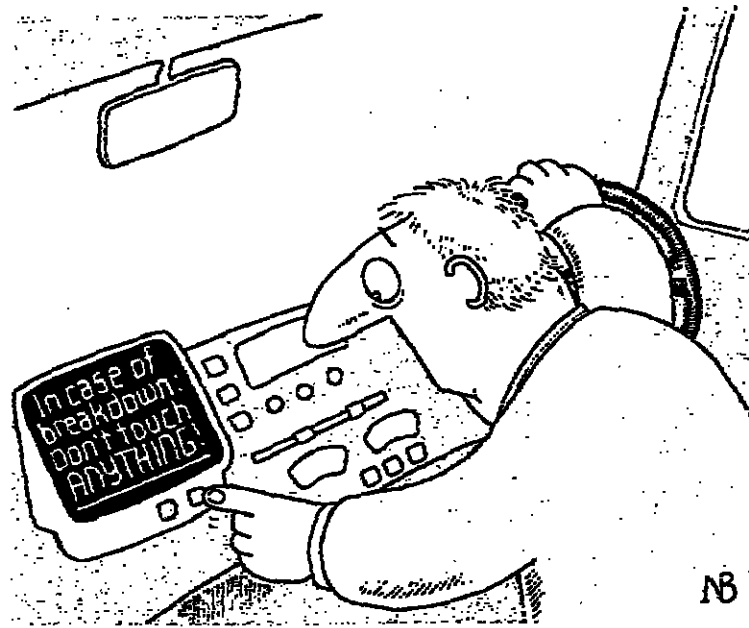
DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

pulled out when the engine was cold and pushed in when it warmed up. New drivers occasionally flooded the engine until they got the hang of it, but otherwise manual chokes worked perfectly well.

Nowadays, cars have fuel injection and electronic ignition so that the choking system is built in. As the mechanic at my local garage said: "They did it to get rid of human error. So now all you've got to worry about is mechanical error."



Exactly so. Of course, the carmakers claim that it all has to do with emission regulations, which is complete tosh. An automatic choke cuts out at a certain engine temperature, no different from the temperature at which one would close a manual choke. If you did not close it, the engine would stall.

The truth about automatic chokes is the same as the wider truth about "engine management systems", which is in fact a licence to print

money. Have a look under the bonnet. Fancy doing a minor service? You'll need a couple of things you wouldn't have needed ten years ago. One is a pile of microchips (no, they don't have them in Halfords) and the other is the home telephone number of Bill Gates, the chairman of Microsoft. Without those two, forget it. You could, if you insist, check the oil and the water, because the carmakers have yet to devise a way of preventing ordinary mortals

from getting at these areas. But it's only a matter of time.

THE END of the Easter school holidays will bring the usual queues and chaos to our motorways. At Easter itself, the AA announced over television news footage of a jammed M40 that soon all our motorways will look like this, all the time.

Now this is a silly statement. I should point out that I happen to belong to the RAC, but that organisation is equally prone to doom-mongering. Lobby groups are the last people we should listen to in these circumstances.

I am as wedded to the motor car as the next person, but I believe a sea change is occurring. I have already stopped travelling to London by car and switched to the railways. Thousands, if not millions, will be doing the same over the next few years.

It all boils down to the balance of convenience. In exchange for the personal freedom of a car, we will tolerate a considerable degree of inconvenience. But there is a point where the scales tip and individuals tend to act en masse and switch to something more convenient.

The Government may pronounce, scaremongers predict doom, environmentalists swing through trees at Newbury. None of this matters a jot. Left to ourselves, we shall solve the problem of road congestion by taking matters into our own hands.

Save now, pay later

What may seem a bargain in the showroom could cost more in the long run, warns Kevin Eason

Buying the cheapest car in the showroom can be a false economy, according to a study by one of Britain's biggest vehicle leasing companies. Cowie Interleasing studied its file of company cars to discover which was cheapest and found that writing the smallest cheque to purchase was not automatically the way to lower whole-life costs.

The cheapest car to run on sale in Britain is still Fiat's Cinquecento — the tiny 900cc hatchback that has helped redefine the trends for small city cars. Although it loses nothing to rivals around town in terms of performance, its fuel economy is challenged only by diesel cars, while the sub-£6,000 purchase price remains an attraction.

Even Daewoo is unable to challenge the market leaders when it comes to running costs, despite the South Korean manufacturer's determination to keep maintenance costs down by offering free servicing for the first three years of the car's life. The Daewoo Nexia GLX, which cost £9,745 at the time of the Cowie survey, would cost companies 20.91p a mile to run, compared with a Ford Escort 1.3i, which is listed at 20.34p in spite of costing nearly £300 more to buy than the Daewoo.

The Seat Ibiza 1.0CL looks a good buy at £6,920, says the company, against competition including Rover's 111 SLI at £8,146, the Vauxhall Corsa 1.5 diesel at £8,145, Citroën's AX 1.5 diesel or the Nissan Micra 1.0LX. £9,100 at the time of the survey. But all proved cheaper to run, using the Cowie formula. While the Ibiza cost 18.91p a mile to keep on the road, the evergreen Metro came in at 18.07p, the Corsa at 17.75p, the British-built Micra at 18.62p and Citroën 17.41p.

Cowie says more than just price is at play. Resale values can seriously colour the worth of some models, with the cheapest cars more than halving in value as soon as they are driven out of the showroom. A check on future residual values in the authoritative Cap Monitor shows that a Daewoo Nexia saloon could be worth just 45 per cent of its new price after a year on the road; owners of a Cinquecento could expect to see their cars get as high as 66 per cent of value when they came to change it after a year.

The rate of depreciation is also marked. The Cinquecento is predicted to fall in value in steps to 52 per cent of new price at two years old, 34 at three and 26 at four. Compare that with Cap's predictions for the Nexia of 35 per cent, 25 and 18 at the same ages.

Cowie says that higher depreciation and maintenance costs as well as poorer fuel economy take their toll, which means that over 60,000 miles, the Citroën, for example, would prove 900 cheaper to run than the Seat.

Neil Pykett, Cowie Interleasing's managing director,



	PRICE	ENGINE	FUEL COST	COST PER MILE
Fiat Cinquecento 6	£ 5,825	899	£ 3,060	15.66
Renault 5 1.4 Prima	£ 5,873	1300	£ 3,582	17.74
Seat Ibiza 1.0 CL	£ 6,920	1043	£ 3,583	18.91
Vauxhall Corsa 1.0	£ 7,620	1043	£ 3,192	16.88
Rover Mini Mayfair 1.3i	£ 7,776	1275	£ 3,869	18.71
Rover 100 115 S Diesel	£ 7,846	1527	£ 2,634	16.95
Fiat Punto 1.0	£ 7,969	1043	£ 3,192	16.82
Citroën AX 1.5 Diesel	£ 8,060	1527	£ 3,060	17.41
Vauxhall Corsa 1.5 Diesel	£ 8,145	1498	£ 2,733	17.75
Rover 100 111 SLI	£ 8,146	1119	£ 3,193	18.07
Hyundai Accent 1.3 LSi	£ 8,395	1341	£ 3,125	19.24
Seat Ibiza 1.4 Sales	£ 8,925	1391	£ 3,766	20.81
Proton 105 1.3 GLS	£ 9,005	1299	£ 3,864	20.36
Nissan Micra 1.0 LX	£ 9,700	996	£ 2,997	18.62
Daewoo Nexia GLX	£ 9,745	1498	£ 3,862	20.91
Fiat Tipo 1.4 S	£ 9,815	1372	£ 3,866	20.44
Fiat Punto 90 ELX	£ 9,958	1081	£ 4,194	21.65
Ford Escort 1.3i	£ 10,015	1297	£ 3,686	20.34
Renault Clio 1.5 Diesel	£ 10,190	1870	£ 2,898	19.35
Peugeot 306 1.4 XDi	£ 10,625	1360	£ 3,582	20.71



Proton MPI 1.3 GLS

costly to run

rate with the driver covering between 2,500 and 18,000 business miles a year.

Cowie concentrated on small cars in its annual Company Car Comparisons Guide because they are likely to play a greater role in company choice as traffic congestion worsens and fuel economy becomes more important.

Pykett adds: "In the near future, we will see most of the world's volume carmakers moving into the ultra-economy, small car-about-town. Some private sector companies are already looking

seriously at small cars for junior staff."

The Cowie formula for calculating running costs springs a number of surprises, making cars which often boast low sticker prices not quite the bargain they seem once they are out of the showroom. Maintenance and repair costs play a significant part in running cost calculations, as a separate report from Velo Insurance Services showed this week. The company checked on average repair costs for crash damage or vandalism among cars from the big manufacturers and found a wide disparity be-

tween Fiat at the bottom and Mazda at the top.

While a Fiat cost on average just £350 to repair, a Mazda cost £791. In between, Land Rovers cost £378, Peugeot £430, Ford £439, Rover £448, Vauxhall £468, Volvo £479, Jaguar £516, Citroën £520, Volkswagen £574, Nissan £594, Renault £609, Mercedes-Benz £618, BMW £694, Audi £714, Toyota £729, Saab £781, and Honda £791.

Calculations like those from Cowie could matter a lot when the market for new cars is in a state of turmoil. While sales to private buyers continue to struggle, sales of fleet cars are ahead with companies seemingly happy to invest in vehicles in spite of Britain's missing "feel-good" factor.

Alan Polham, director of the National Franchised Dealers Association, blames the lack of private sales on carmakers pitching their prices too high, which deters many who would simply prefer to wait and buy motors at a year or two old but at much lower prices.

"As an industry, we are failing to deliver the message that a car is excellent value for money," he says. "Private car purchases will continue to slide until manufacturers return to a realistic pricing policy. The fleet and business market continue to prop up the figures, but low profit margins and falling resale values on volume products are not the best way to sustain the industry in the long term."

How and where customers buy their cars could be as important in the future as what they buy and how much they pay though. Daewoo decided early on to attack the traditional notions of car buying: customers going to a one-make showroom, their minds almost made up before they shop because they have chosen that one dealership above all others. The purchase usually requires a special trip — but not if Daewoo has its way.

Having sited showrooms in out-of-town shopping centres, the company has now linked up with a supermarket chain. The first super-salesroom is at the Savacentre at London Colney, Hertfordshire. As shoppers wheel out their trolleys, they can check on Daewoo, using touch-screen computers, and there is one car in the showroom and six more in the car park.

If the idea takes off, shopping might never be the same again with a trip to the supermarket for frozen peas and two bottles of Chardonnay also including a quick look at the latest motoring models.

● Cowie's Company Car Comparisons Guide is available on 0245-585840, or send an A4 size to Cowie Interleasing, Icknield Port Road, Birmingham B16 0BE.

Diane is left in a hole with her Polo

Tony Dawe on an impasse



Diane Gilbert Scott has owned her Volkswagen Polo for more than six months but driven it for only 12 days — the rest of the time it has been under repair or parked on her drive.

The story is the latest to join Car 96's burgeoning file of Cars from Hell and could take longer than most to resolve as she and Volkswagen have reached an impasse which will require an expert diplomat rather than a customer services manager to end.

As soon as she drove her new car away from Blade Motor Company of Gloucester last September, she thought the gearbox was stiff. Twelve days later, it started to pack up. No matter how she pushed and pulled, it was impossible to select reverse. She took the car back to Blade, but within days the gears had gone again.

The garage attempted further repairs, but when the Polo was returned to Diane's home in Stroud, Gloucestershire, she told the mechanic after a test drive that it was still unsatisfactory.

When her husband, Peter, took it for a test run, he found he couldn't select first or second gear and had the hair-raising experience of negotiating roundabouts in driving sleet in third.

A technical inspection by the RAC confirmed the car could "present the driver with a potentially hazardous driving situation". Blade offered to send a transporter to pick it up for more tests but, on the advice of solicitors recommended by the RAC, Diane was only prepared to allow VW to inspect the car in her drive in the presence of a RAC technical expert.

"I want a new car," she says. "I am totally dissatisfied with VW and Blade. They have had two attempts to put things right and failed. I have a dog car and want it replaced."

"Under the new Sale of Goods Act of January, 1995, I am entitled to a replacement car, but, significantly, in the VW sales material, they quoted the previous Act."

A spokesman for VW says: "Our customer care department is talking to her and we hope we can resolve the problem, but it is very difficult if we cannot have proper access. We are quite prepared to give her a vehicle of equal value while we take the Polo away to rectify it."

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

AUTOCAR MAGAZINE ONCE REPORTED THAT GOVERNMENT MOTORISTS COST THE U.S. ONE BILLION GALLONS OF PETROL A YEAR...

IN 1906 CHARLES GILBERT DROVE HIS NINE 4,900MILES ALONG THE RAILWAY LINES FROM BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, BEFORE BECOMING DERAILED JUST 50MILES FROM NEW YORK CITY.

THE AA ANNOUNCED ITS MILLIONTH MEMBER IN 1950. HRH PRINCE ANDREW THEN ASKED: "HOW MANY MORE?"

PETROL COSTS ONLY 19p PER LITRE IN VIETNAM, BUT A BASIC TOYOTA COROLLA COSTS 300 MILLION DONG (NEARLY £50,000).

Thanks to readers of *Car 96*, the list of Coventry's missing heritage is much shorter. Tony Dawe reports

A city's wheels of history that still turn

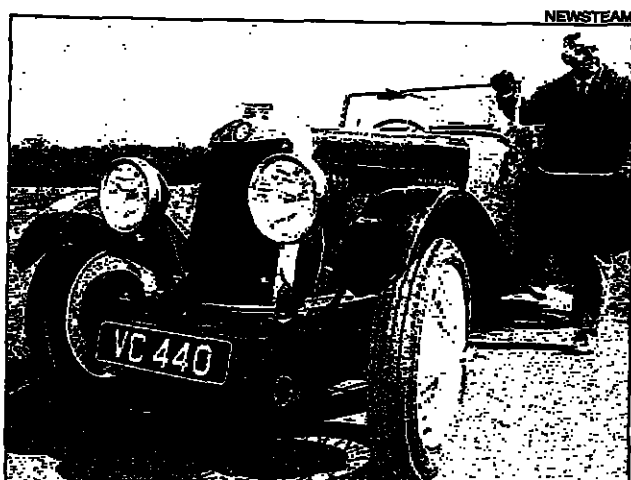
The search for the missing Coventry cars, launched by *Car 96* three weeks ago, has inspired readers to comb attics for memorabilia, dust off old photograph albums and even present models that motor historians thought they would never see.

Many did not realise that the cars they possess — or used to own — are rare, and most had bought them in their youth in the 1940s and 1950s when they "could not afford anything better".

The hunt was started to help officials in Coventry to find as many makes as possible to feature in the centenary year of the British industry. Of the 132 carmakers which had set up in the city in the past 100 years, they could find only 40 whose models had survived. The missing list is now shorter and vital clues have been provided to help trace some of the more elusive models. Historians have learnt of cars they didn't know they were looking for and one reader has even offered the city's Museum of British Road Transport two rare Coventry-made cars.

In launching the hunt, *Car 96* featured Cluley, a 1920s manufacturer whose models seemed to have disappeared completely, and two historic cars: the Hillman Straight 8 Segrave, named after the legendary racing driver of the 1920s and from the well-known maker absorbed by bigger companies; and the Lea-Francis Hyper, one of which triumphed in the 1928 Ulster TT race, from a company that expired in 1954.

Readers were quick on the trail of the Cluley and we have been told of nine in existence, including one owned jointly by the grandson of the company's founder and his cousin (see below). While still searching for the Hyper, we have at least



MOTOR CITY COVENTRY

found a Lea-Francis, which was built for the 1929 Le Mans 24-hour race and is now owned by Nick Alexander, but the Segrave Hillman remains elusive.

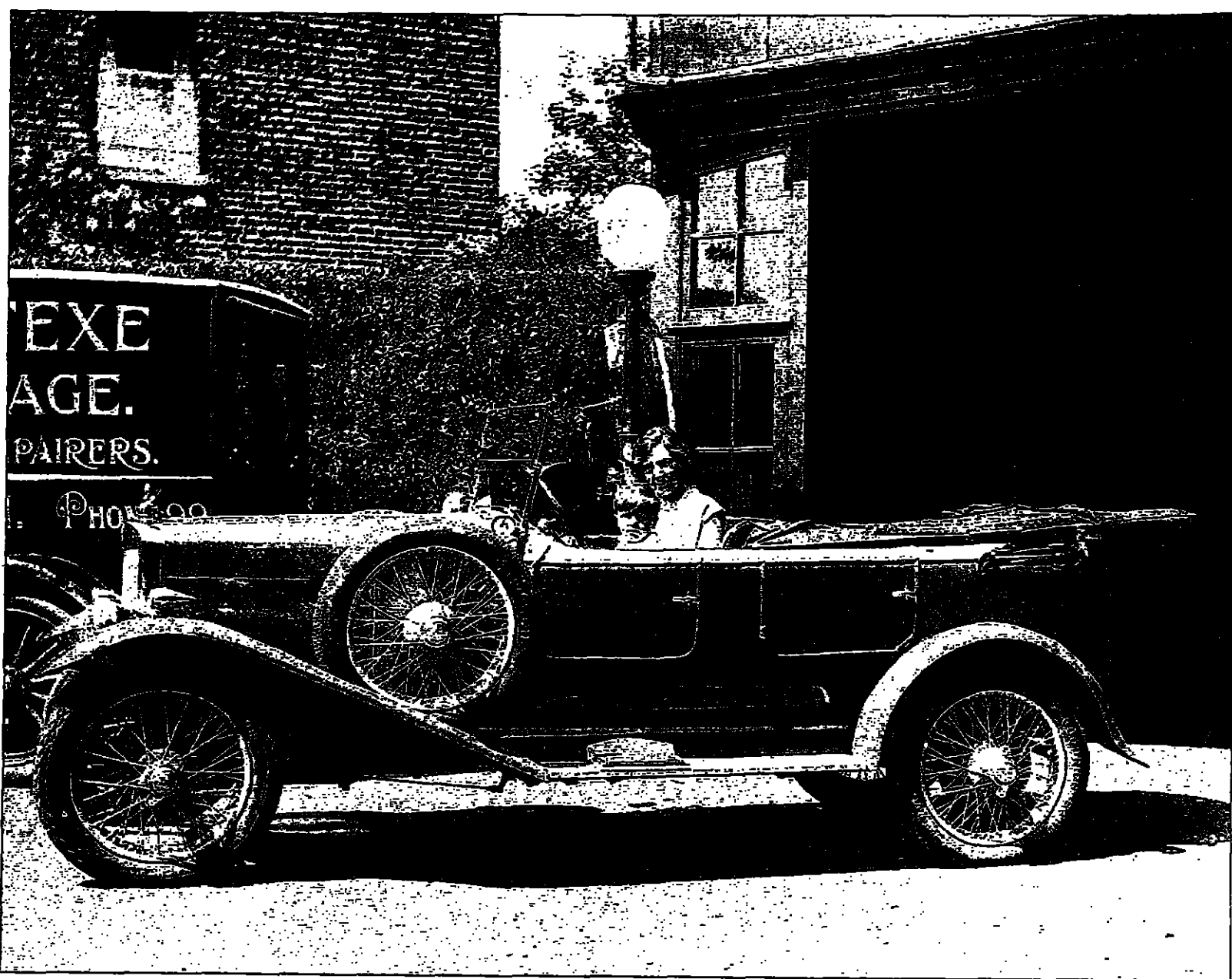
Bill Starling, artistic and administrative director of the Young Persons Concert Foundation, recalled buying an early 1930s Hillman Vortic Straight 8 some 30 years ago. "I was a young and impecunious car fan in those days and eventually found the vehicle too involved to restore and gave it away," he said.

"But I have heard of it since then. After a picture appeared in *Classic Car* in April 1985, a Mr Hopper wrote asking if I knew what had happened to all the wood trim as he was hoping to restore the car. I put him in touch with the person who I thought had last removed the woodwork."

David Mortimer wrote from Budleigh Salterton, Devon, that he had bought a Hillman Segrave coupe as his first car in 1953. "It cost me £10 and a portable typewriter," he recalled.

"It was a four-cylinder car of some 16 brake horsepower with a wood and fabric body and still had its owner's manual — which contained instructions for getting to the factory at Ryton near Coventry."

"It had an annoying right-side handbrake, which made entry and exit a bit awkward. The brakes were individually adjusted by star wheels, the front being set to come on just before the rear. As the brakes also suffered from noisy juddering, emergency stops were something to be avoided. The previous owner had recommended and provided me with graphite powder to ease them. "I did several trips from Kent to Cornwall in it, however, and even managed 55mph downhill. It gave me many happy hours of double de-clutching which stood me in good stead afterwards when the clutch cable snapped on more modern cars on two occasions."



Motoring memories: three-year-old Douglas Kaye Don Holland and his mother in his father's four-door Lea Francis outside their home in Devon

Mr Mortimer's story has a sad ending, however. The Hillman Segrave eventually ground to a halt, he was given a company car and the classic went to the scrapyard.

The hunt for the Lea-Francis Hyper, driven to victory in Ulster by Kaye Don, has produced an entertaining story, if not the car itself. Douglas Kaye Don Holland wrote from Tiverton, Devon, to tell us that his father, a garage owner between the world wars, was such a fan of famous racing drivers that he was named after the Ulster victor and his brother after Sir Malcolm Campbell. Holland even enclosed a photograph of himself, aged three, with his

mother in a four-door Lea-Francis his father had owned. The historic Lea-Francis owned by Mr Alexander has just been restored by Barry Price at his Warwick workshop and is set to join a cavalcade of former Le Mans entries which will lap the circuit before this year's race on June 15/16.

"It looks better than new," a proud Mr Alexander said. "I didn't buy it because of its provenance; it was the sort of car available for a young man to buy in 1950 when I purchased it because there was a long wait for new cars and they were too expensive. I only learnt its history later." The Lea-Francis had won

'It still had its owner's manual — with instructions for getting to the factory at Ryton'

the 1.5-litre class in the 1929 race and finished eighth overall, with drivers Peacock and Newsome aboard. It was then bought by a wool merchant from Huddersfield but had done a low mileage when Mr Alexander purchased it. "I was at university and

used it as my daily transport and I also did speed trials and rallies in it," he said. "I then embarked on a career and had no time for such frivolities and the car was neglected. But 18 months ago I entrusted it to Barry Price and now plan to treasure it because it is unique: the only surviving Le Mans Lea-Francis in the world."

He and his car will be invited to join the display of Coventry cars planned in the city on August Bank Holiday Monday by the local museum. For its part, the museum has received a tempting invitation from a *Car 96* reader, Norman Milne, of Kinghorn, Fife, is offering two rare Coventry-built cars to the mu-

seum on extended loan: a 1949 Hillman Minx Phase III saloon and a 1953 Sunbeam Talbot 90 Mark IIA sports saloon.

The Hillman is the very first production Phase III off the line at Ryton in late 1948, the wide, full-width, curved screen model, not the prewar rebash of 1948, and is incredibly rare," he said.

"The Sunbeam is a significant Coventry car, being the outright winner of the 1955 Monie Carlo Rally, and although the New Lanark car museum in Scotland would like to take the car, it would be far more appropriate to have it on permanent display in Coventry."

Where is George Formby's favourite?

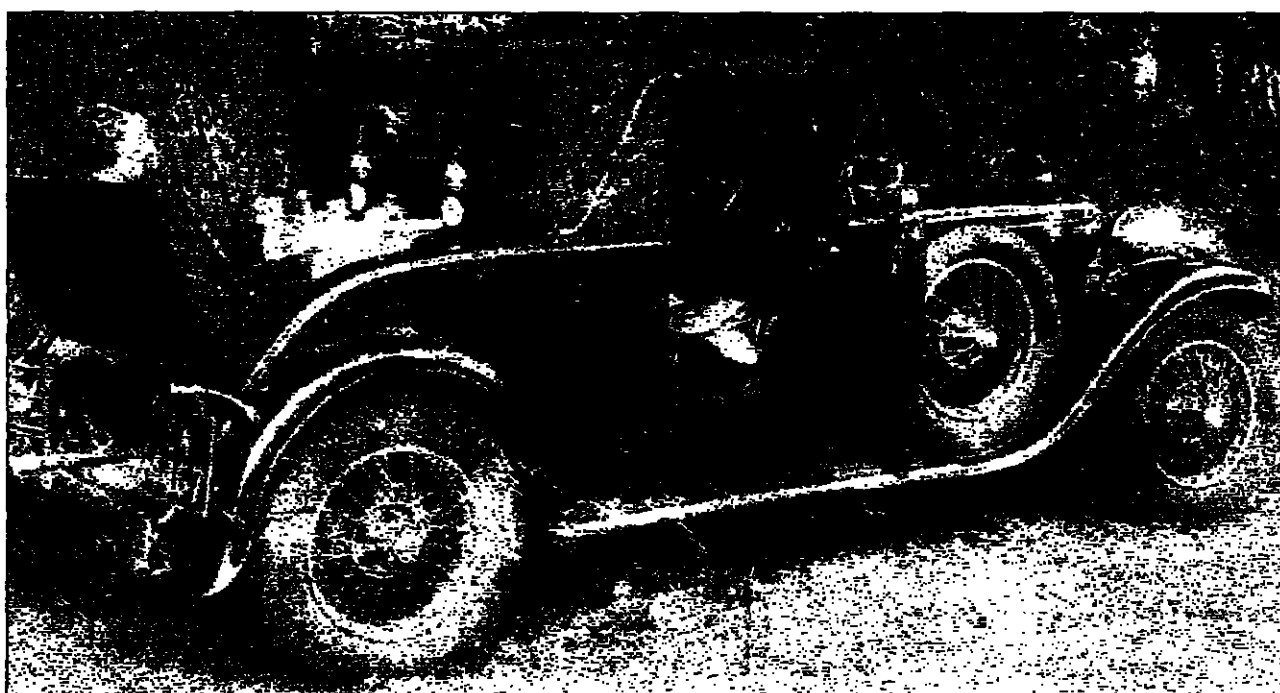
ALTHOUGH the name Hillman may be more familiar than the other two marques we chose for our first search for Coventry's lost cars, the model we illustrated, the Straight 8 Segrave, is proving elusive, writes Alan Coppins.

The model was apparently named after the great racing driver Sir Henry Segrave after he had been impressed by one of the company's four-cylinder cars at the 1927 Olympia Motor Show.

Our quest has brought forth a host of entertaining anecdotes and photographs, not least that supplied by Roger Cooper of Rickmansworth, Herts. The photograph shows his mother enjoying what he describes as "a fairly alcoholic picnic" in the back of such a car she owned in the 1930s.

"The car was constructed by my grandfather, Tom Owen, who was one of many small one-man-band coachbuilders at the time," says Mr Cooper. "His premises were in Park Crescent Mews, London W1 and the car was made for Mr Justice Sachs. My mother purchased it in 1933/4. She ran it for two or three years before selling it in favour of a Riley Kestrel saloon, presumably my fault!"

The registration UW 4467 is



Taking a back seat: Roger Cooper's mother relaxes in her Hillman Straight 8 Segrave after a "fairly alcoholic picnic"

clear on the original photograph and may give readers a clue to its fate. Mr Cooper says he believes the car was the undoing of the Hillman company because they were venturing into a luxury market with which they were not

familiar. In 1928 the company merged with its neighbour, Humber, and two years later both became part of the Rootes Group.

Other sightings of the Segrave Hillman come from Leyland, Lancs, in the 1960s,

and we are checking on one in Essex which was due to be put on the market this month.

One celebrity owner of such a car was the comic singer George Formby. "Around 1928/9 he was appearing at a theatre in Salford, Lancashire,

and lived in Blackpool. Every night after the show he drove home to Blackpool, which was considered very daring in those days. I spoke to him one night and he said it was the best car in the world," reports Mr F.E. Greaves of Anglesey.

Outstanding names

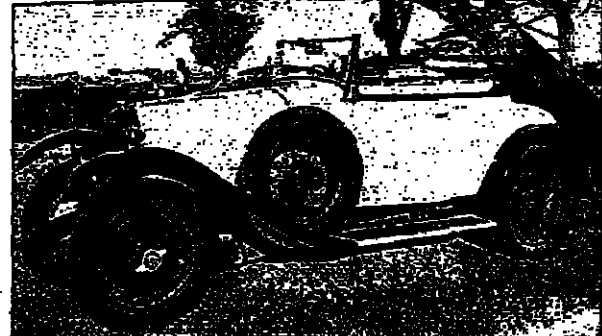
THIS is the British Museum of Road Transport's list of companies set up to make cars in Coventry with approximate dates of manufacture. Examples of those in bold are known to exist; any clues about others would be welcome. Write to Coventry Cars, Car 96, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

Academy 1906-08; Acme 1919; Aircraft 1928-30; Albion 1923-24; Allard 1909-02; Alpha 1903-14; Alvis 1920-57; Andy Rouse 1983-; Arden 1912-16; Ariel 1922-25; Armstrong-Siddley 1919-80; Arno 1908; Aurora 1903-04; Auto Forge 1907-1; Autovia 1937-38; Awson 1926-30; B & A 1937-38; Barnett 1926-30; Bayliss 1926-30; Beeston 1938; Billings 1900; Brancroft 1926-30; British Motor Co 1899; British Motor Traction 1906-10; Broadway 1913; Brooks 1902; BSA; Buckingham 1913-23; Calcraft 1913-25; Carbodies 1943-; Carlton 1901-02; Centaur 1900-01; Challenge 1919-25; Chota 1913; Clarendon 1902-03; Clément 1908-14; Climax (White & Poppe) 1905-07; Cluley 1922-28; Condon 1907; Cooper 1919-23; Cornet 1904-08; Coulter 1922; Coventry Motor 1898-1902; Coventry-Premier 1913-33; Coventry-Victor 1926-37; Crawford 1901; Crouch 1912-22; Cunard 1906-10; Daimler 1897-; Daisy 1926-30; Dalton & Wade 1906-10; Davidson 1926-30; Dawson 1920; Deasy 1908-11; Doherty 1906-10; Duryea 1902-08; Dutton-Ward 1906-10; Eagle 1912-13; Ennis 1922-23; Endurance 1988-01; Ferguson 1950-4; Forge 1903-05; Forman 1904-06; Gannard & Bloomfield 1904-06; Glover 1912-13; Godiva 1900-01; Grosvenor 1906-10; Great Horseless Carriage 1898-98; Hamilton 1905-10; Hill 1926-30; Hillman 1907-79; Hobart-Bird 1906-10; Hotchkiss 1920; Hubbards 1906-10; Humber 1898-1968; Hurley 1906-10; Klier 1904-07; Jaguar 1945-; Lady 1892; Laneham 1900-55; Lea-Francis 1900-4; Lee-Stroyer 1904; Lee-Eadie 1926; Leda 1906-12; Marley & Buckingham 1912-13; Marston 1919-25; Maudslayi 1902-23; MMC 1898-04; Moons & Owen 1906-10; Morris 1913-82; Motor Radiator 1912; Neville Sinclair 1906-10; New Beeston 1898; Noble 1919-25; Norton 1913; Omega 1925-27; Payne & Bates 1900-01; Premier 1912-14; Phry 1901-05; Progress 1898-05; Raglan 1899; Ranger 1913-14; Record 1906; Remington 1926-30; Rex 1901-14; Ridley 1901-07; Riley 1904-38; Rover 1904-; Rudge 1912-13; Ryder 1980-1; Riley 1901-02; Shamrock 1900; Siddley, Siddley-Deasy 1912-19; Singer 1902-58; Standard 1903-63; Stonebow 1901; Stoneleigh 1912-24; Sturtevant 1909-12; Supercar 1935-40; Sweeney 1928-45; Swift 1900-31; Talbot 1900-4; Taylor-Sweetman 1913; Titan 1911; Tynan 1923-4; Vitor 1902-04; Vernon 1906-10; Viking 1914; Warwick 1925-30; West-Aster 1904-14;

SURGICAL OPERATION ON A RARE BODY OF WORK

THIS immaculate 1923 3-litre Bentley can add something to Coventry's motoring history which even the city's experts did not know. It is one of just 14 with bodywork made by Carbodies of Coventry, a firm whose main business now is to produce the black taxi cab.

Bentley went to 30 different companies for the bodywork for its classic cars, with Vanden Plas the most renowned, and this may be the only one with Carbodies coachwork still in existence. It has been lovingly rebuilt by Noel Pizey of Bath, who used his skill as a surgeon to take the car completely apart, bolt by bolt, apart from the gearbox. The chassis was shot-blasted, new piston rings provided for the engine and the car



Noel Pizey's 1923 Bentley, a surprise for the experts

repainted in its original cream colour.

"I bought it in 1957 to get me to and from work and paid only £175 because dealers thought the design of these cars rather uninteresting," he said. "I used it every day for years, but now that it is insured for £100,000 I don't take it out too often."

"One of the highlights of the year, however, is when we join the Bentley drivers' club outing to Brittany, where this picture was taken. It continues to run beautifully and needs just half a turn to start."

In its early days, Carbodies also made coachwork for Rolls-Royce.

A CLULEY THAT BECAME A FAMILY CAR AGAIN

OF ALL the cars being hunted by Coventry's motor historians, the Cluley has turned up almost in abundance, writes Tony Dawe. Nine are known to exist, including one jointly owned by the company founder's grandson and his cousin.

John and Richard Cluley are carrying out a major service so that the car can appear in rallies this summer. They can also offer historians something extra: a fascinating insight into the story of the company.

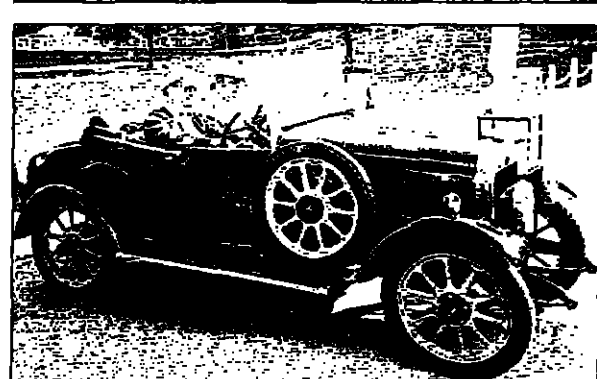
While the Cluleys can tell their personal story, the man with all the facts is Roger Armstrong of Esher, Surrey, who has produced the *Cluley News*, a 12-page newsletter with details of the nine cars in existence, and an article from *The Motor* of September 15, 1920, about the first 10 horsepower model produced.

His research shows that none of the surviving cars is in the hands of the original owners, including the 1924 two-seater 10 horsepower bought by John Cluley. "I had never seen one and had no idea what the cars looked like when I joined grandfather's company in the 1950s, when it was making gearing and transmission components for helicopters," John recalled.

"I was born in 1939, a long time after the last car had been made, and all the records and designs had been destroyed in the blitz. So you can imagine my delight when I saw one advertised somewhere in Doncaster in a motoring magazine. The asking price was £60 and I arranged to go and see it."

"I was young and inexperienced in those days and introduced myself straight away as Mr Cluley, at which point the price went up to £120. I felt a bit of a fool, but was so proud to see the car that I bought it and towed it back to the Midlands. It was not in running order and the bodywork was poor, but with some professional help we smartened it up and used it for advertising in the factory."

After selling the company in the late 1980s, the Cluleys decided to rebuild the car



Richard Cluley with the family car under restoration, top, and with his cousin, John, in the 1990 Shakespeare run

and Richard now looks after it. "It has performed excellently in several rallies and is a very good car which should be kept in running order," he said. "It was going very well last year, but I was not entirely satisfied with it. I have found one or two original bits and, as it is eight years since the rebuild, decided to have some major work carried out to make it even better."

THEIR grandfather set up the company at the Globe Works, Coventry, in 1895 with a partner called Clarke who stayed with the firm for only a short time. "My grandfather became friendly with the Courtauld family and when they were short of money helped them through difficult times," John said. "His reward was a contract to make textile machinery components for Courtaulds. "In the early 1900s, Clarke Cluley began making Globe bicycles and I was told that a young William Morris used to travel from Oxford to buy them to sell in his shop. The company went on to make a tricycle called a Cymocar and entered the car market in 1920 when my father,

Charles, and uncle Norman joined the firm.

"By 1928, hundreds of cars had been made, but by then people like Morris were making similar cars at a lower price. Unlike many other Coventry carmakers, grandfather saw the light and pulled out of the motor business before losing all his money and went on to make components for Rolls-Royce aeroplanes."

The company moved to Kenilworth during the blitz, but later returned to a home on the Coventry trading estate. After the family sold it, the company struggled to survive and is now in receivership. Armstrong added that Clarke Cluley was an unusual car company because it tried to make everything, including engines, in-house instead of buying in ready-made parts. "The Cluley is a very robustly-built light car of conventional design, well-engineered and of the utmost simplicity," he said. "Hand-built in small batches, it could not hope to compete with the larger manufacturers whose cars were very similar but cheaper and better equipped."

SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

CAR 96

Philip Schofield tells Andrew Pierce of moments that shatter his image

A nasty streak inside Mr Nice

One of the longest-running musicals in the West End, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, finally closes next week. Fittingly, it is Philip Schofield, who first played the lead in 1992, who will be bowing out with the production on April 20. Other luminaries have donned Joseph's loincloth, but Schofield has been the most successful. "It has become a way of life. It will be strange not to have it around," he says.

How did you first learn to drive?

It was one of the biggest con tricks I ever pulled off. I learnt in New Zealand, where I lived for four years. One of the few people I knew ran a driving school and there was one test slot in the year everyone fought for—the one just before Christmas when my instructor delivered a giant hamper to the head of the traffic division. The lesson immediately after the delivery was regarded as the one most likely to succeed. My instructor gave me the slot because he was a family friend. I mucked up the three-point turn, clipped the corner and jumped amber lights. Despite the disasters, I passed with flying colours.

What was your first car?

A Sunbeam Rapier. I adored it. It looked like a Hillman Minx with a walnut dashboard with little tiny plastic eyelids on the indicators. But it cost too much to keep on the road.

What car do you drive now, and why?

A Land Rover 110 TDI. We live on the top of a hill in Oxfordshire. It can be clear for miles around but snow on the top of our hill. We had a Suzuki four-wheel drive, but it was like a paper dart in the wind. The Land Rover is suited to the travails of remote rural life.

What is your most hated car?

The Ford Scorpio. It looks like a fish and is the ugliest car I have seen.



Philip Schofield: picking up points on his licence only when mother is in the car

STEERING COLUMN

What is your dream car?

The new Jaguar which is based on the E-type. If I was young, free and single, I would have one like a shot.

What is your worst habit in the car?

I am a bad abuser, not at all like my clean-cut image. I enjoy the wonderful moment when the target of my invective recognises me. You can see it dawning on them: "Hang on. That's Mr Nice from television. How does he know those words?"

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they drive with their foglights on when it is not foggy and within eight millimetres of my bumpers.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Only when I have had my mother in the

car. I have been pulled for speeding more than once, when she is in the passenger seat. We are so busy chatting I have forgotten about the speed. I never asked her to pay the fines.

What do you listen to in the car?

Mollie, my 2½-year-old daughter, singing. She particularly enjoys a medley of nursery rhymes.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Authorise the building of a tunnel from my house to central London purely for my own use. It would go straight into my own personal parking space. I might let my friends use it.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

The new Rover commercial which claims to be the second most comfortable ride you will ever have. I don't think so.

F1 Fantasy Drive update



Below we print the results of last week's Argentinian Grand Prix and the cumulative points in each category for both the Brazilian and Argentinian races. Remember, the Australian Grand Prix does not count towards our point scoring system. Also today we introduce the first of our leaderboards showing the position, number of points to date, team name, and the name of the fantasy team manager, which shows Mr K Holmes'.

Duplada 4 Racing and Mr I Harvey's Rabbit Racers sharing the top position on 1,348 points each.

Our second race winner for the performance of his team in the Argentinian Grand Prix is Peter Burton from Alton in Hampshire. His team, Burton-York, scored 743 points. He wins a day for two at the British GP courtesy of Jonathan Palmer. He was chosen at random from all winners under Rule 5.

TOTAL POINTS AFTER ARGENTINIAN GP

Group	Last race points	Total Fantasy points
Group A		
01 M Schumacher	65	173
02 J Alesi	110	225
03 D Hill	112	223
Group B		
04 G Berger	72	111
05 E Irvine	114	218
06 J Villeneuve	112	156
Group C		
07 D Coulthard	104	140
08 M Hakkinen	32	142
09 H-Hi Frenzen	42	90
Group D		
10 M Brundie	40	128
11 R Barrichello	110	188
12 J Herbert	111	148
Group E		
13 M Salo	41	155
14 P Lamy	41	147
15 P Diniz	32	156
Group F		
16 U Katayama	36	143
17 J Verstappen	104	131
18 O Panis	106	224
Group G		
19 T Marques	40	40
20 R Rosset	25	53
Group H		
21 L Badoer	24	127
22 A Montemini	116	143

*Represents 1 point

You can change up to four of your drivers on your transfer line below (Republic of Ireland 004 499 010 0332). Only one call is permitted in the transfer period—more than one call will invalidate your transfers. Transfers must result in a team comprising one driver from each of the eight groups.

CALL 0891-405 032
UNTIL NOON THURSDAY APRIL 25

0891 calls are charged at 39p per minute
cheap rate and 49p at all other times



HOW YOUR DRIVERS SCORED POINTS IN ARGENTINA

Qualifying points are scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid:
D Hill 20; M Schumacher 19; J Villeneuve 18; J Alesi 17; G Berger 16; R Barrichello 15; J Verstappen 14; M Hakkinen 13; D Coulthard 12; E Irvine 11; H-Hi Frenzen 10; O Panis 9; U Katayama 8; T Marques 7; M Brundie 6; M Salo 5; J Herbert 4; P Diniz 3; P Lamy 2; R Rosset 1.

Finishing points are scored by the top 20 drivers at the end of every grand prix:
D Hill 20; J Villeneuve 19; J Alesi 18; R Barrichello 17; E Irvine 16; J Verstappen 15; D Coulthard 14; O Panis 13; J Herbert 12; A Montemini 11. (No other finishers)

Lap points one point for each lap completed:

D Hill 72; J Villeneuve 72; J Alesi 72; R Barrichello 72; E Irvine 72; J Verstappen 72; D Coulthard 72; O Panis 72; J Herbert 71; A Montemini 69; G Berger 58; M Schumacher 46; P Lamy 38; M Salo 36; M Brundie 34; T Marques 33; H-Hi Frenzen 32; P Diniz 29; U Katayama 28; R Rosset 24; L Badoer 24; M Hakkinen 19.

Improved position points three points for each place improved from starting grid to finishing position:
A Montemini 36; J Herbert 24; E Irvine 15; O Panis 12; R Barrichello 6; D Coulthard 6; J Villeneuve 3; J Alesi 3; J Verstappen 3.

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01 1348 Rabbit Racers	I Harvey
03 1347 The Fat Wee Fishes	G Leuder
04 1346 The Feet-U-Wells	P Woolton
04 1346 Knight V10	N Knight
04 1346 Hill's Heroes	J Radford
04 1346 Team Acronym	J C Farrow
06 1344 Duplada 8 Racing	K Holmes
08 1344 The Sidmarks	A McKencie
08 1344 The Rad Racers	Mrs P Bray
11 1340 Golden Step	T Ronaldeon
11 1340 Wilkins Wonders	Mrs S Wilkins
13 1336 Thomas's Terrors	T De Souza
13 1336 Aqua King	B May
15 1326 Formulation	Mrs C Harding
16 1334 Riverside Racers	C T Savard
17 1333 Brown Bear Racing	Mrs J E Matthews
17 1333 No Team Name	A Sokolovski
19 1332 RKV 4	David Rokov
19 1332 City Rag	Derek harvey

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